



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor

Andrea J. Cabral
Secretary

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Telephone # (508) 650-4500

Facsimile # (508) 650-4599



Josh Wall
Chairman

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MICHAEL HISKIN

W54868

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: September 13, 2011

DATE OF DECISION: April 19, 2013¹

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, John Bocon, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in writing, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in four years. The next hearing will be in September of 2015.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Michael Hiskin (who reports that his true name is Sammy Jones) appeared before the Board for a review hearing on September 13, 2011. This is his second appearance before the Board.

On May 9, 1991, Michael Hiskin and his co-defendants, Malcolm Robinson and Leroy "Chris" Ivey, shot and killed 22-year-old Henry Bynum. Two other victims, a man and a woman, were also shot in the attack, but survived. On July 28, 1993, Mr. Hiskin pleaded guilty to second degree murder and was sentenced to serve life in prison.

¹ This decision was delayed because it had been assigned to an employee who left the agency without completing the decision. The Parole Board regrets the uncertainty and inconvenience that this delay caused to those involved.

On the night of the murder, Mr. Hiskin and his co-defendants drove up to 11 Park Street in Brockton asking for "Chuck." They drove by a second time and told people in front of the house to tell "Chuck" that "Chris wants his money." The men drove away. The third time they returned, they pulled into a lot next to the house and began shooting. Mr. Bynum and the other victims were struck by the gunfire. The cause of Mr. Bynum's death was multiple gunshot wounds.

Later that evening, Mr. Hiskin bragged to a witness, "We shot two dudes and their bitch" and "I was the one who hit him I had the dead shot." The police apprehended Mr. Hiskin and Mr. Ivey the following day. When they were taken into custody, they had a .380 caliber firearm in their possession. Ballistics testing confirmed that this was the gun used in the shooting.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

Michael Hiskin has served 20 years of his life sentence. After many years of denying his role in the murder, Mr. Hiskin admitted at this hearing that he did fire the shots that killed Henry Bynum and injured Belinda Keith and George Lapan. He also admitted that he filed a false affidavit with the court in December 2005 when he alleged his innocence and sought to withdraw his guilty plea. After a superior court judge denied the motion, Mr. Hiskin unsuccessfully pursued appeals, supported by the false affidavit, before the Appeals Court and the Supreme Judicial Court in 2007.

Mr. Hiskin said that his real name is Sammy Jones, and that he used the name Michael Hiskin as an alias when arrested. He has numerous prior criminal cases under both names. Mr. Hiskin admitted that his prison behavior was "terrible." He said that he "got involved with the wrong people in prison," but has improved his behavior since 2006 when he began program participation. He was a very active drug dealer in Boston in the years leading up to the murder, selling marijuana, powder cocaine, and crack cocaine. Mr. Hiskin said, "I made a lot of money."

With respect to his improved behavior recently, Mr. Hiskin said, "I came out of it, it took me longer than it should."

III. DECISION

Michael Hiskin, whose real name is Sammy Jones, has served 20 years of a life sentence for shooting Henry Bynum to death. He has a very violent prison record, which began at the county jail with an escape and disciplinary reports for fighting with inmates and threatening corrections officers. He has 41 disciplinary reports at the Department of Correction, with three placements in the Disciplinary Detention Unit. His violent acts in prison include robbing and beating other inmates, participating in group assaults on other inmates, and participating in group disturbances by distributing weapons. He has possessed drugs and used alcohol in prison. Mr. Hiskin's violent behavior in prison demonstrates that he is not rehabilitated.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that, "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not

incompatible with the welfare of society." Applying that appropriately high standard here, the Board finds that Mr. Hiskin is not a suitable candidate for parole. Accordingly, parole is denied.

Recognizing Mr. Hiskin's recent improvements in behavior and program participation, the Board will review the matter in four years, during which Mr. Hiskin should continue with his more positive activity.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.

Josh Wall

Josh Wall, Chairman

April 19, 2013

Date