



Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Daniel Bennett  
Secretary

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

*Telephone # (508) 650-4500*

*Facsimile # (508) 650-4599*



Charlene Bonner  
Chairperson

Janis DiLoreto Smith  
Executive Director

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**NATHANIEL WILLIAMS**  
**W34781**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** **Revocation Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:** **February 12, 2015**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **April 14, 2015**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Ina Howard-Hogan, Tina Hurley, Lee Gartenberg, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Sheila Dupre

**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 written submissions to the Board, the inmate is granted parole, by a vote of (5 – 2), to a long term residential treatment program.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On December 2, 1974, in Suffolk Superior Court, Nathaniel Williams pleaded guilty to one count of second degree murder for the shooting death of Boston Police Detective John Schroeder during a robbery at the Suffolk Loan Company. Williams also pleaded guilty to four counts of armed robbery. He was sentenced to serve 5 concurrent terms of life in prison.

On November 30, 1973, Anthony Irving, Terrell Walker, and Nathaniel Williams decided to rob the Suffolk Loan Company, a pawn shop, on Washington Street in Roxbury. The three men were armed and driven to the store by a fourth party. All three men entered the store, where there were a number of customers and store personnel. Upon seeing Detective John Schroeder, either Williams or Irving recognized him to be a police officer and yelled out "he is a cop, get him." Walker, armed with a gun, struggled with Detective Schroeder, struck him over the head with his gun, and then shot him once in the neck. After Detective Schroeder fell to the ground fatally wounded, Williams, Walker, and Irving ordered store employees to unlock the safe and open display cases. They robbed the store of watches, rings, cash, and other valuables. Before leaving, Walker went over to Detective Schroeder and pulled his badge



holder and money from his pants pocket. He also removed Detective Schroeder's gun, a .38 caliber revolver, and kept it. The three men then fled the store.

Terrell Walker was arrested later that day in a Boston apartment, where Detective Schroeder's gun was also found. Irving and Williams were arrested the following day, December 1, 1973, on a bus in Danville, Virginia. The gun used to shoot Detective Schroeder was found in Williams' bag. Terrell Walker's first degree murder conviction was overturned by the First Circuit Court of Appeals and he pleaded guilty to manslaughter. He has completed his sentence of 18 to 20 years. Anthony Irving pleaded guilty to second degree murder and was released on parole in March 2005.

## **II. INSTITUTIONAL & PAROLE HISTORY**

Williams is serving his first incarceration. He was committed to MCI-Cedar Junction on December 3, 1974. He has a total of 27 disciplinary reports, four returns to higher custody, and two parole failures. Since his return to custody in May 2011 for a second parole violation, he has incurred two disciplinary reports for being out of place or in an unauthorized area. The first report occurred in November 2013 and the second report occurred in March 2014. Since his last appearance before the Board in January 2012, Williams completed the Correctional Recovery Academy. He has also been enrolled in GED classes, although he has not yet obtained his GED. He currently participates in the Lifers Group, AA/NA, Nation of Islam services, and Chess Club.

Williams requested a postponement of his initial parole eligibility hearing on October 11, 1988. He later appeared before the Board on February 13, 1989; August 14, 1990; May 7, 1992; May 24, 1993; May 2, 1994; March 6, 1995; May 12, 1997; December 7, 1998; and December 17, 1999. He was denied parole each time. After Williams' review hearing on November 30, 2000, the Board granted him parole. On January 31, 2001, Williams was paroled and lived with his girlfriend, Carole Jamison. He held various jobs and his parole was uneventful until December 21, 2006, when Boston Police responded to a 911 call for a domestic incident in progress. Carole Jamison, Williams' girlfriend and mother of his son, had called the police. When they arrived on the scene, she told them that Williams had picked her up at work in her car and that he had been drinking alcohol. She said they got into a verbal argument and Williams became enraged, slapped her across the face, and exited the car in front of their home. Ms. Jamison stated that Williams had keys to the home and she was afraid that he would return to the premises. Officers could not locate Williams until December 27, 2006, when he was arrested on a warrant for assault and battery stemming from the aforementioned incident with Ms. Jamison. The case was later dismissed without prejudice, following Ms. Jamison's reluctance to testify against Williams. On January 9, 2007, Williams' parole was revoked due to his arrest and alcohol use. He was re-incarcerated for three years.

On June 11, 2010, the Board afforded Williams a second opportunity for parole. He was paroled to a re-entry house in East Boston. From the outset, Williams had difficulty with his finances and applied for SSI/SSDI and food stamps. His requests to live with, or near, Carole Jamison were denied. He complained of his physical inability to work since his (2007) heart attack and was unable to continue to pay rent at the re-entry house. Williams moved from shelter to shelter without a job or steady income. His resolve, his positive adjustment, and his overall re-integration in the community began to deteriorate. On April 17, 2011, Williams



violated parole by turning to crack cocaine. He stated that someone he knew drove to where he was staying and asked him to come with her to buy cocaine. He agreed and took \$100 of his own limited funds to buy drugs. After procuring cocaine, they drove out to Castle Island to take the drugs. A police officer knocked on the car window and observed him with the drugs in the car. Williams then received a summons to appear before the court for possession of cocaine. Alarming, Williams did not report any of this to his parole officer until May 11, 2011, which was his third meeting with his parole officer since the incident. He claims that this was the only incident involving drugs during this parole and that he made a bad decision because he was depressed about his current living and employment situation. Williams was arraigned on June 22, 2011, in Boston Municipal Court, on the drug charges and received a sentence of 6 months committed. On July 20, 2011, the Board affirmed Williams' provisional revocation and he was re-incarcerated.

On January 24, 2012, Williams appeared before the Board for a revocation review hearing. The Board found that Williams was vulnerable to stress and made poor decisions while in that mode. He twice violated parole with substance abuse relapse, which correlated with other stressors at that time of his life. Williams referenced a number of people and resources that were available to him, yet he could not adequately explain why he failed to utilize his support network to help him avoid drugs and succeed on parole. The Board concluded that he had considerable work to do in addressing his various issues, including lack of motivation and productivity while on parole, and denied parole with a review in three years.

### **III. PAROLE HEARING ON FEBRUARY 12, 2015**

This is Nathaniel Williams' 14<sup>th</sup> appearance before the Board. On February 12, 2015, Williams was represented by Northeastern Law School students Alexandra Georgieva and Fiza Najeeb. Williams talked about his role in the armed robbery and the shooting death of the Boston Police Detective in 1973. He accepts responsibility for his actions, but still sees himself as the least culpable for the actual murder. He told the Board that his role was to "protect the door" and that he did not fire his weapon at anyone. He also talked about the 2006 incident regarding his girlfriend, Carole Jamison. He said that they both made mistakes and he now understands that he should not have become so angry with Ms. Jamison. He told the Board that he and Ms. Jamison continue to have a healthy relationship and that she regularly visits him in prison. He said that he would go live with her if re-paroled, except that he is prohibited from doing so.

Williams reflected on his last parole hearing in 2012. He informed the Board that he was denied parole after that hearing because he had not used his support network, had little motivation to change his depressed mindset, and failed to immediately contact his parole officer after he was caught with cocaine by the police. He told the Board that when he was re-paroled in 2010, he did not understand how his situation would lead him to violate parole. He did not realize how his poor physical health would prevent him from working as a laborer. In 2011, Williams was unemployed and could no longer pay rent at the re-entry home. He went from shelter to shelter, incurring debt. He said the shelters were not stable environments; he contracted tuberculosis at one shelter and he indicated that many other people staying at the shelters were constantly getting high. He told the Board that his depression and anxiety increased and, instead of reaching out to his support network of family and friends, he became isolated and turned to cocaine.



When questioned by the Board as to what changed his mindset over the past three years, Williams told the Board that he better understands his stress triggers and his response to stressful situations. He will use his sponsors, family, and friends for support to succeed on parole. He understands that he cannot be shy or embarrassed about reaching out to his support community and that if he is feeling down or in pain, he will ask for help to cope with his issues in order to prevent bad decisions. He also told the Board that his new parole plan is to reside at the John Flowers House, which is neither a boarding house nor a shelter. This program provides services to address his issues and to help him gain employment. Williams informed the Board that if accepted into the program, he could remain in the program for six months to a year, before having to fully support himself in the community. He further told the Board that he will only seek employment that he is capable of due to his physical limitations. He has developed a passion and talent for making quilts over the years in prison and he hopes that he can use those skills to become gainfully employed. Since his last hearing, Williams has completed minimal programming, but regularly participates in the Lifers Group, AA/NA meetings, and religious services.

Two people spoke in support of parole. Karen Schleicher, who has been a friend of Williams since 1988, said she will be able to support him in any way, if paroled. She will provide transportation and will always be available to talk if he needs someone. She also expressed an interest in helping him turn his quilting skills into a means to financially support himself. James Jamison, Williams' son, also said that he will be there to support his father for whatever he needs, if paroled. Letters in support of parole from Carole Jamison, Williams' long-time girlfriend, and Anthony Williams, a family friend, were read to the Board since they were unable to attend the hearing.

Boston Police Superintendent Robert Merner spoke in opposition to parole. He read a letter from Boston Police Commissioner William Evans, who strongly opposes parole for Williams.

#### **IV. DECISION**

Nathaniel Williams served 27 years on 5 concurrent life sentences before receiving parole in 2001. He was apparently successful on parole until December 2006, when he violated parole in a domestic incident involving alcohol consumption. Williams received a second parole in June 2010, which he violated in April 2011 by using crack cocaine. He has now served over 35 years on the 5 life sentences, during which time he has participated in rehabilitative and recreational programming. Williams has strong support in the community and is seeking to continue with his substance abuse treatment via a long term residential treatment program. Consequently, a majority of Board Members concluded that Williams should be granted parole. Board Members Hurley, Gartenberg, Soto-Abbe, Dupre, and Coleman voted to parole Williams to a long term residential treatment program. However, Chairperson Bonner and Board Member Howard-Hogan voted to deny parole based on Williams' multiple parole failures, lack of motivation to better himself and succeed while on parole, failure to utilize his support network while on parole, and concerns regarding the facts of the crime that resulted in the murder of a Boston Police detective.

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." Further, by statute, the granting of parole is accomplished only when the Board Members, by a two-thirds majority, vote to grant parole. Accordingly, parole is granted to a long term residential treatment program.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Parole to a long term residential program; Report to MA Parole Office on day of release; Waive work for long term residential program; No drug use with testing required; No alcohol use with testing required; AA/NA at least 3 times per week; Abide by curfew.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janis DiLoreto Smith, Executive Director

4/19/15  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date