

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

OTIS MILES

W61326

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: December 15, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: May 6, 2021

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 24, 1996, after a trial by jury in Suffolk Superior Court, Otis Miles was found guilty of the second-degree murder of Anthony Evans and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Miles was also convicted of the unlawful possession of a firearm (3rd offense) and received a 7-10-year concurrent sentence.

Mr. Miles appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on December 15, 2020 and was not represented by counsel. This was Mr. Miles's fifth appearance before the Board, having been denied in 2009, 2012, 2014, and 2017. The entire video recording of Mr. Miles' December 15, 2020 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

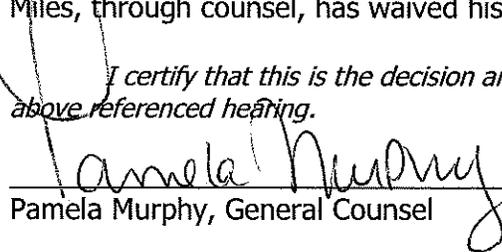
DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to Interstate Compact North Carolina after 12 months in lower security. Mr. Miles served 26 years for the murder of 22-year-old Anthony Evans. Since his last hearing, Mr. Miles has completed several programs to include Restorative Justice, several phases of Cognitive Skills and Alternatives to Violence. It is the opinion of the Board that incarceration has served its purpose and he has addressed his causative factors through participation in meaningful treatment and programming. A period of transition in a lesser security environment will increase his likelihood of success upon reentry into the community.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "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." In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Miles' institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Miles' risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Miles' case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Miles is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve Interstate Compact – North Carolina after 12 months in lower security; Approved home plan before release; Waive work for two weeks; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Supervise for drugs; testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence; testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim(s) family; Must have substance abuse evaluation, adhere to plan; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The above decision is an abbreviated administrative decision issued in an effort to render an expedited resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Miles, through counsel, has waived his right to a full administrative decision.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

5/6/2021
Date