

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



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**RONNIE SALAAM
(a.k.a. RONALD HARRIS)
W34918**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 11, 2021

DATE OF DECISION: June 17, 2021

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa¹

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On March 21, 1975, in Suffolk Superior Court, Ronnie Salaam (a.k.a. Ronald Harris) was convicted of the second-degree murder of Mack Clark and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Salaam was also found guilty of assault with the intent to murder and with the unlawful carrying of a firearm.

Mr. Salaam appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 11, 2021 and was represented by Attorney Inna Landsman. This was Mr. Salaam's first appearance before the full Board following his September 1, 2020 parole revocation. The entire video recording of Mr. Salaam's March 11, 2021 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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.² Reserve to home plan after clearance from [the] District Attorney. Subject was on parole since 1989. He worked at the Boston Water and Sewer for 29 years. Subject was returned to custody based on 2018 allegations from a 1999 and a 2006 incident. He was convicted of the 1999 incident. Allegations appear to have aris[e]n in context

¹ Board member Karen McCarthy was present at he hearing, but was not a board member at the time of the vote. Chair Moroney was present at the hearing but recused herself from the vote.

² Four board members voted to parole Mr. Salaam after clearance from the District Attorney. One board member voted to deny parole with a review in three years.

aris[e]n in context of contentious divorce. Prior to the criminal allegations[,] subject had been doing well on parole supervision for approximately 30 years. Subject has addressed family conflicts[,] has strong support system.

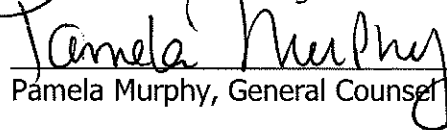
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society."

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Salaam's 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. Salaam's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Salaam's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Salaam is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: After clearance from the District Attorney, reserve to approved home plan before release; Waive work for two weeks or retirement; Must be at home between 10 PM and 6AM or at PO's discretion; ELMO-electronic monitoring at PO's discretion; 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 unsupervised contact with minor children, and [named individuals]; No contact with victim, No contact with victim(s) family; Must have mental health counseling for anxiety.

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. Salaam, 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

6/17/2021
Date