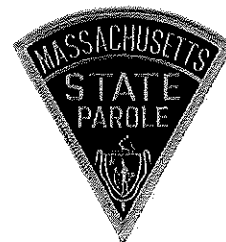


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4599

Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Daniel Nakamoto
Acting Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

SHAHEED ABDULLAH
W99901

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: August 8, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: December 12, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina M. Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On August 25, 2008, Shaheed Abdullah asked a male to arrange a drug transaction with a dealer at the male's Boston residence. When the dealer arrived, Mr. Abdullah held him at gunpoint, stole his Rolex watch, \$400, and crack cocaine, then shot the dealer in the hand and leg. Before fleeing the scene, Mr. Abdullah pistol whipped the male who set up the transaction. Both victims survived.

Two days later, Mr. Abdullah was shot by an identified person. When police responded, they located a firearm near Mr. Abdullah that was subsequently confirmed to be the firearm Mr. Abdullah used in the August 25th shooting.

After a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Mr. Abdullah was convicted on October 31, 2011 of Armed Robbery with a Firearm, Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon Causing Serious Bodily Injury, Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Unlawful Possession of Ammunition¹, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, and Carrying a Loaded Firearm. On January 5, 2012, a second jury found Mr. Abdullah guilty of the subsequent offense portion of Armed Robbery with a Firearm, as well as being a Habitual Offender and an armed career criminal. He was sentenced to life with the possibility of parole on the Armed Robbery with a Firearm, Subsequent Offense as a Habitual Offender. On all other counts, he was sentenced to no more than 15 years to 15 years and one day.

¹ Mr. Abdullah's conviction for Unlawful Possession of Ammunition was vacated on appeal.

Mr. Abdullah appeared before the Board on August 8, 2023, for an initial hearing. He was represented by student attorneys Ishrat Mannan and Emily Mensing, who were supervised by Attorney Patricia Garin. The entire video recording of Mr. Abdullah's August 8, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into 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, the criminal record, the 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.

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." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Abdullah'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. Abdullah's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Abdullah's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Abdullah is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.² Parole to Brooke House but not before January 2024 to allow subject to complete his degree program (at his request) and then 6 months in lower security.

This is Mr. Abdullah's initial appearance before the Board. He has completed Jericho Circle and programming on substance use. He has pursued educational opportunities during his prior incarcerations and obtained his GED and Associate's degree. He is currently enrolled in a Bachelor's degree program with Tufts University. The Board finds he has taken steps to address issues precipitant to his crime including substance use and trauma. Subject has medical issues as a result of a shooting where he was the victim. Mr. Abdullah demonstrated insight into his history of substance use and presented a release plan which addresses his substance use history. Subject has strong community support. Finally, the Board considered the opposition testimony of Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood and the support testimony of multiple individuals including Mr. Abdullah's family members.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Parole to Brooke House but not before January 2024 to allow Mr. Abdullah to complete his degree program (at his request) and then 6 months in lower security; duration of time at residential program Brooke House to be determined by parole officer; waive work for 2 weeks; curfew - must be at home between 10PM and 6AM or at P.O.'s discretion; electronic monitoring at P.O.'s discretion; supervise for drugs - testing in accordance with agency policy; supervise for liquor abstinence - testing in accordance with agency policy; report to assigned Massachusetts Parole Office on day of release; no contact with victims or victims' family; must have substance abuse evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan; counseling for trauma and transition issues; must sign release of information.

² One Board Member voted to deny parole with a one-year review.

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.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair

12/12/23
Date