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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

TIESON GONZALEZ

W83684

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 12, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: December 6, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS¹: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 25, 2004, after a jury trial in Worcester Superior Court, Tieson Gonzalez was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of 19-year-old Andrew Sierra. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. He was also convicted of Armed Assault with Intent to Murder and was sentenced to a concurrent term of fifteen to twenty years in prison.

Mr. Gonzalez appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on July 12, 2022. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Gonzalez was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2017. The entire video recording of Mr. Gonzalez's July 12, 2022, 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 not a suitable candidate for parole.

The Board is of the opinion that Tieson Gonzalez has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On August 24, 2001, 20-year-old Mr. Gonzalez participated in the shooting death of 19-year-old Andrew Sierra. During his incarceration, he has incurred approximately fifty-five disciplinary reports. Since his

¹ Former Chair Gloriann Moroney was no longer a board member at the time of the vote.

last hearing he incurred eleven disciplinary reports including for fighting and introduction of narcotics. He told the Board he is running a store in violation of DOC rules, which leads the Board to believe he is still engaged in criminal thinking. The Board notes he has completed rehabilitative programming like CRA and Alternatives to Violence and currently works as a companion in the HSU. The Board encourages Mr. Gonzalez to pursue vocational training, refrain from incurring additional disciplinary reports, and stop the operation of the store he runs in the institution. The Board also wants Mr. Gonzalez to focus on his sobriety.

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. Gonzalez'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. Gonzalez's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Gonzalez's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Tieson Gonzalez is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Gonzalez's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages him to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

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


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

12/6/22
Date