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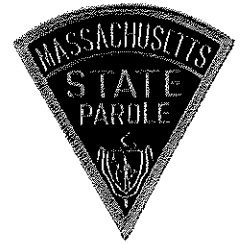
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

TIESON GONZALEZ
W83684

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 23, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: December 10, 2024

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander,¹ Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is granted on/after 9 months in lower security to LTRP (Long Term Residential Program).²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: 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 sentenced to a concurrent term of 15 - 20 years in prison. Mr. Gonzalez was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2017, and after his review hearing in 2022.

Tieson Gonzalez, now 43 years old, appeared before the Board on July 23, 2024, for a review hearing. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of that hearing. Mr. Gonzalez was represented by law students Purvaja Srivalli Kavattur and Ezekiel Hopkins from the Northeastern University School of Law.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On August 24, 2001, officers from the Leominster Police Department responded to 209-211 Mechanics Street on a report of shots fired. It was soon discovered that 19-year-old Andrew Sierra had been shot and killed in a drive-by shooting. At the scene of the crime, a bystander told police that Mr. Gonzalez was seen driving the Jeep.

¹ Board Member Alexander was not present for the hearing, but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² Three Board Members voted to grant parole to a Long Term Residential Program after 6 months in lower security.

This individual, however, refused to testify at trial and later denied the statement. Acting on this information, Leominster police dispatched officers to Mr. Gonzalez's apartment. During this time, officers found Mr. Gonzalez's co-defendant, David DePascale, driving Mr. Gonzalez's Jeep. When officers searched the vehicle, they found cocaine, Mr. Gonzalez's wallet, and a 9mm handgun. One year later, Mr. Gonzalez was arrested on charges of second-degree murder. Mr. Gonzalez appealed the conviction twice; however, both appeals were denied.

APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an incarcerated individual's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the incarcerated individual's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This was Mr. Gonzalez's third appearance before the Board. Mr. Gonzalez has struggled with an addiction, which he reported he developed in 2014 during this incarceration. He has completed CRA and has continued to invest in Substance Abuse treatment, including engaging in the MAT program. Mr. Gonzalez has invested in Educational Programs, Restorative Justice, Alternatives to Violence and other programs to address his needs. Mr. Gonzalez also completed additional programming that he self-funded to assist him with parenting skills. He has a significant support system. He developed a strong re-entry plan to assist with a positive transition into the community. Mr. Gonzalez was 20-years-old at the time of the offense and is now 43-years-old. The Board considered testimony from his family members and a friend, all of whom spoke in support of parole. The Board also considered the testimony of Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Nathaniel Beaudoin, who spoke in opposition to parole.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for program; Curfew-must be home between 10 P.M. and 6 A.M. for 12months upon release; GPS monitoring for 12 months upon release; Must take prescribed medication; Supervise for drugs with testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence with testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact or association with gangs or gang activities; No contact with victim(s)' family; Must have mental health evaluation and must follow recommendations(s); Counseling (one-on-one) for substance abuse; Long Term Residential Program; Mandatory – allow for contact with Michael Coyle.

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

12/10/24
Date