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PAROLE BOARD

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Josh Wall
Chairman

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

VANN LONG

W54528

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 11, 2011

DATE OF DECISION: April 17, 2012

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, John Bocon, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Parole is denied with a review in five years. The decision is unanimous.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Vann Long participated in an armed home invasion and armed robbery in Lynn on February 3, 1991. A female victim, Cheang Lei Nhor, was shot to death. Long committed the home invasion and robbery with Ouen Lam. Vann Long and Ouen Lam – both masked and armed – forced their way into the apartment at 102 Hanover Street where the Nhor family (husband, wife, and six children) were sleeping in the middle of the night. Long ripped a telephone cord from the wall and used the cord to tie up the husband. After several minutes, the husband was able to free his hands from the cord, and he struggled with one of the masked perpetrators. One of the perpetrators fired his gun. The bullet passed through the neck of Mr. Soth Nhor (the husband and father) and fatally struck Mrs. Cheang Lei Nhor (the wife and mother of six children) between the eyes. The evidence pointed towards Ouen Lam as the one who fired the shot.

An Essex County jury convicted Long of first-degree murder. He succeeded on appeal, on an issue of error in jury selection, and was given a new trial. Prior to the

second trial, Long pleaded guilty to second-degree murder; he also pleaded guilty and received concurrent life sentences for armed home invasion and two counts of armed robbery. Ouen Lam was convicted of first-degree murder. A third man, Saraya Sim had planned the home invasion with Vann Long but did not enter the apartment; Sim was convicted of second-degree murder.

The inmate was 22 years old at the time of the murder. After leaving Cambodia with his family, he had been in the United States for about five years, during which time he lived with a woman in Lowell with whom he had a son. He has almost no formal education. He has one other criminal case, an assault and battery with a dangerous weapon in 1989 that was dismissed.

Parole was denied in 2006, with a five year review. The Board noted that Long showed no remorse, failed to take full responsibility for his role in the murder, and had adjustment problems in prison. The Board concluded that he would be a risk to the community if released.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JANUARY 11, 2011

This is the second parole hearing for Vann Long. Long admitted that he entered the apartment wearing a mask. He says he carried a "fake gun" and that his co-defendant had the real firearm. He denied that he planned the armed home invasion; he claimed that his two co-defendants drove him to Hanover Street and brought him into the building without telling him what they were doing; he said that they told him about the home invasion just before he entered the victims' apartment.

The inmate was evasive about whether he received visits from family. He finally admitted that family members do not visit him and he does not speak to them very often. He said that he had two jobs – as a painter and a security guard – before the murder. He admitted that he used a plastic pipe in a fight in 1989 that resulted in a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

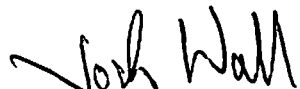
He described his conduct during incarceration as "fair." He admitted that he tried to escape in 2001 during a trip to court. He admitted that in 2000 he sought retaliation against his ESL teacher with whom he was angry. DOC intercepted a letter from the inmate to an associate; the inmate urges the associate to threaten the teacher by telephone and follow up by shooting at her house. The inmate received a disciplinary report and a DDU sentence for that conduct.

Two former co-workers appeared and spoke in support of parole. One supporter remembered that Long showed anger when they worked together. Essex Assistant District Attorney Elin Graydon spoke in opposition to parole. Lynn Police Chief Kevin Copping submitted a letter opposing parole.

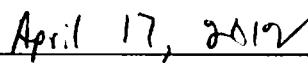
III. DECISION

Vann Long committed a serious crime that resulted in a murder. His prison record gives no indication that he is rehabilitated. For several years he had very little program participation. He has in recent years taken more programs but he has not reached that point where he appears highly motivated to take programs and reduce his criminal thinking and behavior. His disciplinary record is poor. He has over 30 disciplinary reports, nine since his last hearing. His decision to instigate crimes against his ESL teacher and his escape attempt are warning signs of high risk. As evidenced by his continued pattern to minimize his role in the crime and accumulate disciplinary reports, program participation has not yet had a rehabilitative effect on the inmate. Vann Long would likely re-offend if paroled. Due to his lack of rehabilitation, the inmate's release is incompatible with the welfare of society. Accordingly, parole is denied.

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



Josh Wall, Chairman



Date