

Maura T. Healey  
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll  
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy  
Secretary

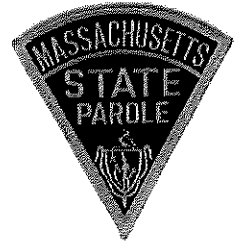
*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

*Telephone # (508) 650-4500*

*Facsimile # (508) 650-4599*



Tina M. Hurley  
Chair

Lian Hogan  
Executive Director

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**VICTOR SANDIFORD**  
**W81177**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing<sup>1</sup>

**DATE OF HEARING:** March 6, 2024

**DATE OF DECISION:** May 2, 2024

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

**VOTE:** Parole is granted to Mr. Sandiford's ICE detainer.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On December 20, 2002, in Suffolk Superior Court, a jury found Victor Sandiford guilty of the second-degree murder of Gregory McFadden. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was also found guilty of armed assault with intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, unlawful possession of ammunition, and unlawful possession of a firearm. Mr. Sandiford received a 12-15 consecutive sentence for the armed assault. He received a 3-5 year sentence for unlawful firearm possession, ordered to be served concurrently with his life sentence. The assault and battery charge and unlawful possession of ammunition charge were placed on file.

---

<sup>1</sup> Victor Sandiford was denied parole after an "initial" parole hearing in 2015. In 2019, Mr. Sandiford was paroled to his 12-15 year from and after sentence. Pursuant to Dinkins & another v. Massachusetts Parole Board, 486 Mass. 605 (2021), Mr. Sandiford's from and after sentence was aggregated with his life sentence, giving him a new initial parole eligibility date of May 1, 2026. After a judicial appeal presented questions about the Parole Board's treatment of earned good conduct deductions when calculating parole eligibility for people serving life sentences with consecutive non-life sentences, the Parole Board agreed to change its calculation of parole eligibility such that good conduct deductions are available to all persons serving life sentences with consecutive non-life sentences subject to certain statutory limitations. This agreement resulted in a new initial parole date of March 6, 2024 for Mr. Sandiford.

Mr. Sandiford has an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer and was ordered to be deported to his home country of Trinidad and Tobago.

On March 6, 2024, Victor Sandiford appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Ryan Schiff. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Victor Sandiford's March 6, 2024 hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On August 18, 1996, Victor Sandiford (age 27) shot and killed 26-year-old Gregory McFadden in Roxbury. On the day of the shooting, Mr. Sandiford went to Mr. McFadden's home three times to demand a fish tank that Mr. McFadden had agreed to store for him, but which he refused to return. On one of the visits, Mr. Sandiford brought a friend with him, who was an off-duty police officer. After the third visit, Mr. McFadden and two other men drove to Mr. Sandiford's house and knocked on the door. When Mr. Sandiford's brother answered, a heated argument ensued. Mr. Sandiford, hearing the argument, came outside and shot Mr. McFadden and one of the other men. Mr. McFadden was struck by gunfire three times in the chest, leg, and back. He succumbed to his wounds shortly after being rushed to Boston Medical Center. The other man survived a single gunshot wound to his back.

Immediately after the shooting, Mr. Sandiford fled the area. He eventually left the country for Montreal, Canada, where he was apprehended after a traffic stop. He was extradited back to Massachusetts to face murder charges.

**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 inmate'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 inmate'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 inmate at the time of the 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 and/or in written submissions to the Board (if applicable).

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Victor Sandiford was before the Board in 2019. His institutional history since that hearing has remained exceptional with him achieving his barber's license and completing more programming. The Board's reasoning for granting parole in 2019 remains relevant now. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Victor Sandiford has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Release to ICE detainer; Approve home plans before release; Waive work for two weeks; 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 victim(s)' family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and comply with recommended treatment plan; Counseling for mental health.

*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*  
Tina M. Hurley, Chair

*5/2/24*  
Date