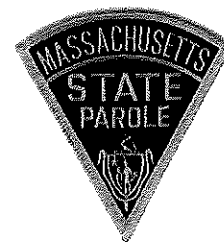




*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*



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*Chair*

**Lian Hogan**  
*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**VIDAL WILLIAMS**  
**W85735**

**TYPE OF HEARING:**      **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:**      **December 14, 2023**

**DATE OF DECISION:**      **March 13, 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 CRJ or LTRP (Long Term Residential Program) after a 1 year step down to lower security.<sup>1</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On June 16, 2006, in Hampden Superior Court, Vidal Williams pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree for the death of Jamal Jackson. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied after his initial hearing in 2020. On December 14, 2023, Mr. Williams appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Kim Jones. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Mr. Williams' December 14, 2023 hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On May 13, 2004, at 3:00 a.m., 22-year-old Vidal Williams shot and killed 19-year-old Jamal Jackson. When Springfield detectives investigated the shooting on Federal Street, they found the victim had been shot seven times in the face and body. Witnesses saw Mr. Williams get out of a car and shoot Mr. Jackson 5 to 6 times. Mr. Williams then got back into the car and sped away. Police subsequently learned that the two men fought earlier about a stolen car that Mr. Jackson allegedly loaned to Mr. Williams.

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<sup>1</sup> One Board Member voted to deny parole with a two year review.

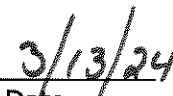
**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and 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:** The Board concludes that Vidal Williams has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board notes that Mr. Williams scores low risk on the LS/CMI. He has remained disciplinary free since his last hearing. He is currently enrolled in the Restorative Justice Reading Group. He has completed multiple correspondence courses and completed OSHA in June 2023. He has maintained employment as an aide in the Critical Stabilization Unit since 2021. The Board noted the neuropsychological report of Dr. Nestor, which indicated stable and adaptive functioning. The Board considered the progress Mr. Williams has made during his incarceration. However, the Board recommends that he continue to address his trust issues, as well as his understanding of the factors which contributed to his criminal behavior. The victim's mother, sister, and girlfriend spoke in opposition, as well as ADA Michael Julian.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Waive work for when program allows; Curfew - must be at home between 10PM and 6AM; Electronic monitoring; Must take prescribed medication; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole office on day of release; No contact with victim(s)' family; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment, transition; Long-term residential treatment or CRJ for at least 90 days.

*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

  
Date