



*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*

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence Reidy
Secretary

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Chair

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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

**IN THE MATTER OF
WILLIAM ALLEN
W63210**

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 31, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: April 20, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On August 29, 1997, after a jury trial in Plymouth Superior Court, William Allen was convicted of the first-degree murder of Purvis Bester and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Allen received a 9–10-year sentence for armed robbery while masked.

On March 8, 2017, Mr. Allen submitted a petition for commutation. On June 15, 2021, the Board conducted a public hearing regarding Mr. Allen’s petition. After due consideration, the Board voted unanimously to recommend favorable consideration. On February 16, 2022 Governor Charles Baker, with the advice and consent of the Governor’s Council, commuted Mr. Allen’s sentence to life with the possibility of parole. Accordingly, Mr. Allen became immediately parole eligible.

Mr. Allen appeared before the Parole Board for an initial hearing on March 31, 2022 and was represented by Attorneys Kristine McDonald, Patty DeJuneas and Robert Cordy. This was Allen’s second appearance before the Board since his commutation hearing on June 15, 2021. The entire video recording of Mr. Allen’s March 31, 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 a unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to an approved home plan. Mr.

Allen was serving a life sentence without the possibility for parole for his involvement in the murder of Purvis Bester when his sentence was commuted by Governor Baker on February 16, 2022. He has served approximately 28 years for his involvement in the murder and takes full responsibility. During his incarceration he has exhibited significant commitment to countless rehabilitative programs, all of which occurred prior to any opportunity for parole. His extraordinary steps toward self-improvement include long term involvement with the Cadre Program and the Companion Program. His work in these programs positively impacted the incarcerated population and exhibited his ability to show empathy towards others. He has had an excellent adjustment during his incarceration and displayed constant effort towards his self-improvement. He showed genuine empathy for the family of Purvis Bester and understanding of how his crime impacted them and the community. He has a strong support network and strong re-entry plan. Through his rehabilitative work and example set for other inmates, he has exhibited readiness for re-entry into the community. In addition to his family support, Mr. Allen received support for release on parole from District Attorney Cruz and the family of Purvis Bester.

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." In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Allen'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. Allen's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Allen's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Allen is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to approved home plan; Waive work for two weeks; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; 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 evaluation - follow recommendations; Must have a substance abuse evaluation - adhere to plan; Must have counseling for adjustment; Must have mental health counseling for PTSD, anxiety and depression; Mandatory - follow recommended treatment of any treatment providers.

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

Pamela Murphy pp. (SMB)
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

4/20/22
Date