

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road  
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Charles D. Baker  
Governor  
Karyn Polito  
Lieutenant Governor  
Daniel Bennett  
Secretary

Telephone # (508) 650-4500  
Facsimile # (508) 650-4599

Paul M. Treseler  
Chairman  
Gloriann Moroney  
Executive Director  
General Counsel

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**WILSON PASTEUR**

**W80893**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** April 19, 2018

**DATE OF DECISION:** December 12, 2018

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**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 that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>1</sup> Parole is denied with a review scheduled in 2 years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On October 18, 2000, in Essex Superior Court, Wilson Pasteur was found guilty of second degree murder in the death of 17-year-old Savorn Prom on a theory of joint venture. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Pasteur was found guilty of unlawfully carrying a dangerous weapon. He received a 4-5 year sentence concurrent with his murder conviction.

Just before midnight on June 5, 2000, Wilson Pasteur (age 19 and a member of security threat group STG1), along with two accomplices, Eric Miller (age 18), and Derek Wright (age 19), shot and killed Savorn Prom in the city of Lynn. Mr. Prom had allegedly belonged to a rival

<sup>1</sup> Two Board Members voted to reserve Mr. Pasteur to his Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer after prescription.

security threat group (STG2). A few days prior to the murder, Mr. Wright was allegedly beaten by members of STG2. When Mr. Wright approached Mr. Miller and Mr. Pasteur, they conspired to retaliate for the beating. On the night of the murder, Mr. Wright armed himself with a stolen .357 Magnum handgun, and Mr. Pasteur armed himself with a stolen .44 handgun. The three young men, Mr. Pasteur, Mr. Wright, and Mr. Miller (who was unarmed), walked down a street in Lynn looking for members of rival STG2. Upon arrival, they saw their targets in a car. When a confrontation developed between the two groups, Mr. Pasteur pulled out his gun, firing one shot toward the rival group. Then, his gun jammed. Mr. Wright then fired a number of shots, including the .357 bullet that killed Mr. Prom. The three men fled the scene, but police eventually found Mr. Pasteur and Mr. Miller hiding in a closet in a Boston apartment.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON April 19, 2018**

Wilson Pasteur, now 37-years old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on April 19, 2018. Mr. Pasteur was represented by Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project Student Attorneys Samantha Miller and Lyla Wasz-Piper. Mr. Pasteur had been denied parole after his initial hearing in 2015. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Pasteur took responsibility for killing Mr. Prom and expressed sorrow for his actions. Mr. Pasteur explained how he emigrated from Haiti with his family at age 5. As a Haitian, he was bullied by classmates until he and his friends banded together and fought back. Mr. Pasteur told the Board how he was expelled from school in ninth grade for punching a hall monitor. After that, he started to associate with a security threat group in his Lynn neighborhood. Upon questioning from the Board regarding his juvenile arrests, Mr. Pasteur described an incident that occurred when a girl he knew got into a fight with another girl. Although he and his friends took the bat away from one of the girls, Mr. Pasteur stated that police charged them all with assault and battery with a baseball bat. According to Mr. Pasteur, another charge occurred when he tried to break up a fight, and one of the combatants stabbed him in the face with a broken bottle. Mr. Pasteur said that he was erroneously charged with the stabbing, and that the charges were dropped when it was discovered that he was the victim.

When the Board questioned him about the murder, Mr. Pasteur claimed that he and his accomplices did not have a set plan when they went to find members of the rival group. When they came upon Mr. Prom and his friends sitting in a car, he and his accomplices were not sure if these men were involved in the attack on Mr. Wright. However, they believed them to be members of the rival group. Mr. Wright made a plan to count to a certain number, while Mr. Pasteur and Mr. Miller circled the block. The men would fire on the car from the front and back. Mr. Pasteur claims he told Mr. Miller, "This is a bad idea. Let's just leave." When the two men walked past the rival group to tell Mr. Wright to abandon the plan, the men were pursued by their rivals. Mr. Pasteur said that he turned and fired his gun on the group and then it jammed. Mr. Pasteur said he regrets not telling Mr. Wright that there would be no retaliation from the start.

Upon questioning by Board Members, Mr. Pasteur said that he first associated with a STG at age 14. He said that he stopped associating with the group in 2010. In 2012, while housed at MCI-Concord, Mr. Pasteur stated that he approached IPS (Internal Perimeter Security) about formally disassociating. The Board then questioned Mr. Pasteur about a 2014 disciplinary report for STG-related fighting. Mr. Pasteur explained that when he was attacked by members of a rival STG in retaliation for the murder, he was removed from the disassociation process because the Department of Correction thought he was still involved in STG activity. Mr. Pasteur said that he

was found not guilty of fighting, after it was discovered that he was the victim of the attack. Mr. Pasteur submitted an October 2, 2017 letter to the Board from the Department of Correction, recognizing his disassociation. When the Board asked about a disciplinary report for new STG tattoos in 2014, Mr. Pasteur denied getting new STG tattoos, but rather, said that he got "cover-up" tattoos to go over STG tattoos.

Since his last hearing, Mr. Pasteur said that participation in the Alternatives to Violence Program was especially helpful in the prison setting. The program helped him avoid physical altercations, by identifying his emotions and the emotions of others. The Restorative Justice re-entry and 8 week programs helped him appreciate the many ways his crime affected victims and their families, accomplices and their families, his own family and friends, as well as the entire community. Mr. Pasteur added that, in addition to programming, his Islamic faith has been helpful in teaching him that "if you take another's life, it is an attack on all of humankind, and that if you can save a life it is like you are helping to save all of humankind." In addition to manufacturing mattresses, Mr. Pasteur said that he works as a volunteer with the hope that he can help save lives in order to make up for the death of Mr. Prom.

Mr. Pasteur asked the Board for a release to his Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer. He expects to be deported back to Haiti, should he be released. He could live with his father in Haiti, where he has the support of family and friends. He identified a prisoner re-entry support group in Haiti that he could attend. Mr. Pasteur trained to be a barber and would like to open a barber shop. If Mr. Pasteur is not deported, he requests a long term residential treatment program in New York or Massachusetts.

Mr. Pasteur's brother, nephew, and friends attended the hearing in support of parole. Many friends and family members wrote letters in support of parole, as well. Essex County Assistant District Attorney Emily Mello testified in opposition to parole and submitted a letter of opposition.

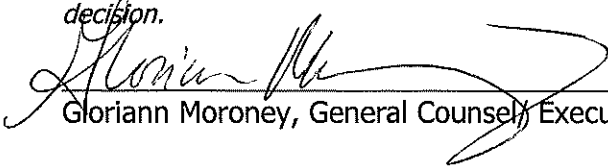
### **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Wilson Pasteur has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Pasteur needs to continue to engage in programming and maintain a positive adjustment. Mr. Pasteur's renouncement was recently accepted.

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 an 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." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Pasteur's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board also considered a risk and needs assessment, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Pasteur's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Pasteur's case, the Board is of the opinion that Wilson Pasteur is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Pasteur's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Pasteur to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

*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.*

  
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Gloriana Moroney, General Counsel, Executive Director

12/12/18  
Date