



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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Paul M. Treseler
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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RABORN ALLAH

(F/K/A DAVID WARRICK)

W58709

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: October 24, 2017

DATE OF DECISION: August 24, 2018

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, 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. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in two years from the date of the hearing.¹

I.STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On May 23, 1995, in Hampden Superior Court, Raborn Allah, formerly known as David Warrick, pleaded guilty to the second degree murder of George Greer and was sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole. That same day, a charge of accessory after was nolle prossed. Mr. Allah pleaded guilty to second degree murder as a joint venturer.

On March 5, 1994, 18-year-old Raborn Allah, formerly known as David Warrick, was involved in the murder of 22-year-old George Greer in Springfield. It was reported that a car containing three individuals pulled onto Greene Street in Springfield, shortly before 2:00 a.m.

¹ Four Board Members voted to deny parole with a two year review. Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a five year review.

Mr. Allah and his co-defendants followed Mr. Greer (who had been driving in that area) at a high rate of speed. Once stopped, Mr. Allah's co-defendant, Orlando Loman, got out of the car and shot Mr. Greer multiple times. Mr. Allah was armed with a gun at the scene, but did not fire his weapon. Mr. Greer died of multiple gunshot wounds. Soon after, Mr. Allah was arrested.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON OCTOBER 24, 2017

Raborn Allah, now 42-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on October 24, 2017. He was represented by Attorney Jeff Harris. Mr. Allah was first paroled after his initial hearing in 2009. His parole was revoked, however, on April 25, 2011, after he associated with his co-defendant. Following his review hearing on December 6, 2011, Mr. Allah was released on parole a second time. He was returned to custody on January 30, 2013, after his estranged wife alleged to police that he committed an assault and battery on her. A criminal complaint did not issue. After his review hearing on August 27, 2013, he was paroled a third time. Mr. Allah was returned to custody on April 25, 2016, and his parole was again revoked for associating with persons with criminal records.

In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Allah stated that 23 years ago, he participated in the worst thing that any human being can do, that of taking the life of another person. Since the night of the murder, Mr. Allah has carried the "thought of George Greer" in his mind, as well as the thought of his father, who was murdered, and the man who Mr. Allah's father had murdered. Mr. Allah has pledged his life to become a better human being and an asset to the community. He indicated that he is before the Board because he has made "errors of judgment." He claims that the errors he made were due to association with people whom he knew to have criminal records, as well as being in places where alcohol was served. While he agrees it is a concern that narcotics were found in his house, Mr. Allah denied knowledge of the drugs, stating that they belonged to another person. A Board Member asked Mr. Allah how he could be trusted on parole supervision, when he continues to appear before the Board. Mr. Allah claimed that there were a lot of things he was doing "right," but that it is "so easy out in the world to get caught up in the illusion of freedom."

Mr. Allah acknowledged to the Board that he was paroled three times in the past. He agreed that the first parole was 17 months long, the second parole was 9 months long, and the third parole was 21 months long. When a Board Member questioned Mr. Allah about the issue of his returns on parole violations, he responded that "the issue is my misjudgment." He also blamed his returns on "...not stopping to think and consider where I am at, my environment, and my circumstance [and] who I am involved with." Also, Mr. Allah stated that he has an issue with believing in himself, since it dictates the decisions he makes and, specifically, the people he is around. A Board Member noted that Mr. Allah violated parole for the same reason during his first and third parole supervision periods, which was association with persons with a criminal record. Mr. Allah indicated that he has not had any disciplinary reports, since his return to custody.

In regard to the underlying crime, Mr. Allah acknowledged to the Board that he never had any "personal dealings" with Mr. Greer, as he really didn't know him and had only heard the name. Mr. Allah said he was 18-years-old at the time and heard "talk about what had happened in regards to [his] father's death, who was there, [and] who was around." He stated that Mr. Greer's name "came up." He said that on the night Mr. Greer was murdered, he was drinking at a club. After he got kicked out, he went to his late father's house. When he was outside of his

father's house, someone saw Mr. Greer drive by. Mr. Allah said he got into a car and pursued Mr. Greer with his co-defendants. He said he purchased his weapon a year before and admitted to dealing drugs at the time. Later, he heard that Mr. Greer did not "necessarily have anything to do with the death" of his father, but was actually a friend.

Mr. Allah stated that he is working at the facility in the kitchen. He indicated that he is enrolled in a small business management course at Mount Wachusett College, and he recently completed the Cognitive Skills program. Also, since his return to custody, he completed the Assertive Communication and Self-Control programs. During his last parole period, he denied the use of drugs or alcohol. If paroled, Mr. Allah would like to attend a long term treatment program and then obtain an apartment by himself. He stated that if re-paroled, the Board would not see him "in this capacity again."

The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Allah's friends, brother, and counselor. Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Howard Safford submitted a letter of opposition.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Allah has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Allah must participate in programming that addresses Criminal Thinking to reflect further on his behavior. He must remain disciplinary (report) free. Mr. Allah has been re-incarcerated for 20 months, and his adjustment since his return has been positive.

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." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Allah'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. Allah's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Allah's case, the Board is of the opinion that Raborn Allah is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Allah'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. Allah 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.


Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel


Date