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Josh Wall  
Chairman

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**JEFFERSON HUDSON**

**W49922**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** July 9, 2013

**DATE OF DECISION:** July 15, 2014

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Cesar Archilla, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Tonomey Coleman, Josh Wall

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying 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 writing, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in three years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

Jefferson Hudson appeared before the Parole Board for a Review Hearing concerning his two concurrent life sentences for second degree murder. This is Hudson's third appearance before the Board, following denial of parole in 2005 and 2010.

On February 8, 1990, Mr. Hudson, then age 20, arrived at 48 Stanwood Street, an apartment building in Dorchester,<sup>1</sup> with two unknown accomplices<sup>2</sup> to reclaim lost drug

<sup>1</sup> Contemporaneous newspaper accounts describe the apartment building as being "known for drug activity."

<sup>2</sup> The number of Hudson's accomplices is unclear and their identities are unknown. Hudson reports he had two "associates," one of whom participated in the execution-styled killings and another who acted as lookout. An eyewitness saw one accomplice who participated in the killings.

territory. Hudson, who was heavily involved in the drug trade,<sup>3</sup> reports that he had used the apartment "as a flophouse for drug users." A rival group of drug dealers took control of the Stanwood Street property, stole drugs and money from the house, and took up residence there. In retaliation, and in an attempt to increase his influence and profitability in the drug trade, Hudson sought to take back the home.

Hudson and his accomplices arrived at the Stanwood Street apartment building at approximately 4:00 am on February 8, 1990 and knocked on the door to one of the apartments inhabited by the two victims: Edward Jackson,<sup>4</sup> age 40, and another male victim known as "Henry"<sup>5</sup>, age unknown. Also present was Laurie Johnson, who associated with Henry. Both Ms. Johnson and Henry stayed in Mr. Jackson's apartment that evening. Henry was there to sell drugs.

After hearing the knocking, Henry had Ms. Johnson hide drugs in her shirt, and answered the door. Hudson and one of his accomplices, with their guns brandished, forcibly entered the apartment and seized Henry, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Jackson. Hudson and his accomplice threw Henry on a bed and took money and cocaine from him. They then forced Henry, Ms. Johnson, and Mr. Jackson to lie on the floor. Ms. Johnson handed over the drugs she was concealing in her shirt. While lying on the floor, Mr. Jackson called out to Hudson, referring to him as "Bigger." Hudson responded by kicking Mr. Jackson in the head.

Hudson instructed his accomplice to find a radio. While the accomplice looked for the radio, Hudson interrogated Henry, asking him who he worked for and whether there were any guns in the home. The accomplice returned to the room with a television and a radio and turned them on with the volume up high. After Hudson ordered her to do so, Ms. Johnson got up and went to an adjacent room. Hudson and his accomplice executed their victims, shooting Henry in the head twice and Mr. Jackson in the head once.

Following these execution-styled killings, Hudson fled to Brooklyn, New York. New York State Police apprehended him on July 20, 1990 and he was returned to Massachusetts. On February 8, 1991, Hudson pleaded guilty to two counts of murder in the second degree to be served concurrently. Hudson also received concurrent sentences for armed robbery (15 to 20 years); armed assault with intent to rob (10 to 20 years); armed burglary (10 to 20 years); and unlawfully carrying a firearm on his person (4 to 5 years). In addition, on April 19, 1991, Hudson was sentenced to two concurrent one year sentences for unlawful carrying of a firearm and unlawful possession of a firearm in the Brockton District Court.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Hudson reports that at the height of his drug operation in Boston, which covered Roxbury and Dorchester, he "employed" at least 40 people, rented and utilized approximately 16 houses, and made approximately \$200,000 profit every six months.

<sup>4</sup> Newspaper accounts provide that Mr. Jackson was a "divorced father of a teen age boy and girl" who had lived in this apartment for approximately 16 years.

<sup>5</sup> According to "Henry's" autopsy report, he was also referred to as Henry Bersine, a/k/a, "Suicide."

<sup>6</sup> Mr. Hudson reports that he was in a crack house in Brockton that had been raided by police and he had a handgun in his possession when he was arrested.

## **II. INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY**

Jefferson Hudson is currently incarcerated at MCI Norfolk. Between 1991 and 2009, Hudson received 36 disciplinary reports, 14 of which were assaultive in nature. Two disciplinary reports involved Hudson possessing a "shank." As a result of his continued negative behavior, Mr. Hudson has had four returns to higher custody. He is currently incarcerated in a medium security setting.

Hudson has engaged in institutional programming. Beginning in 2004, Hudson has completed programs in Alternatives to Violence; Problem Solving Workshop; Jericho Circle Project: Men's Integrity Circle. Hudson (who does not have a high school diploma) reports that he took a GED equivalency test four months prior to the instant hearing. Hudson reports that he has attended AA consistently since 2007. Mr. Hudson has not completed a CRA program.

## **III. PAROLE HEARING ON JULY 9, 2013**

Jefferson Hudson is 43 years old and has served 23 years on his life sentence for murdering Edward Jackson. Hudson reported that he grew up in Brooklyn and did not come to Massachusetts until he was 20 years old. He said, "I started selling drugs at age 14; I had a lot of suspensions in high school for fighting; I dropped out after tenth grade; at age 15 my parents said not to come home if I was selling drugs so I started staying at a friend's house and hanging with older guys." His father worked in construction and his mother was a janitor. He said, "I had a good family growing up. I treated people well as a child, but not when I was a drug dealer."

When Hudson came to Boston, it was for the purpose of selling drugs. He described the drug dealing operation. "I came up here with New York City guys, 16 guys; we came to make money from selling cocaine. We had a house in Dorchester where six of us lived for six months. I became a leader after a year and a half. I was in charge of pulling guys up from New York City; I also looked for places where we could sell and assigned people to areas where they could sell. I was number three in the leadership. The other two leaders entrusted me and they stepped away. As the leader, I ordered the drugs and I disbursed the drugs. We sold crack. I had seven to 15 houses in Boston; at least 40 guys were working for me; I had accounts for men to send money to their families; I made sure the guys ate and had housing and clothes; I had vehicles, mostly rentals; I had about 25 guns for the guys." He lived in Brockton at the time of the murders and owned three cars (one Mercedes and two BMWs).

Concerning the murder, Hudson provided the following background information. "I rented 48 Stanwood from Edward Jackson. I did not know he was a mental health patient. I approached him and offered him drugs for access to his apartment. I was in that apartment for 19 months. I controlled the apartment. We sold drugs from there; there were three guys working there. We paid the victim \$300 per week and gave him drugs as needed to keep him quiet. I lost control of the apartment. Some other armed guys beat my guys; seven guys invaded the home. I had a lot of money and drugs stored there, about \$75,000. Eight days after the takeover, I went in. I couldn't find out who the guys were. The day before the murder, Edward told me he had nothing to do with the takeover; they put a gun to his head; he said he didn't know them; he said two guys were staying in the apartment."

Hudson decided to take the apartment back. He described the murder. "I put on dark clothes, put dirt on my face and went in there like I was a customer. Two of my workers were with me; we were all armed with my guns. I went in first. Edward let me in and there were two other guys in the apartment. I said I was there to buy drugs. Their guns were on the table. I pulled out my gun and said, 'Get on the floor; where are my drugs at?' Edward apologized and I kicked him. I told them I would kill them if they didn't answer me about the drugs. Edward was screaming, "Tell him, tell him." I was enraged and I said I would shoot them. I put them together and I shot them. Edward was first with one in the head. I shot Henry once. The autopsy had two shots; I don't know what happened after I left. After one week, I drove to New York City because I heard there was a warrant for me. New York state marshals got me; I think my mother turned me in. I pled guilty without fighting it. I pled because I was a coward; I knew what I did."

In describing his prison conduct, Hudson said, "Things went very badly at first. I fought every time someone said something. I didn't take to the correctional officers. I was angry about everything. In 2005 at my first parole hearing, I said I wasn't ready. I wasted that 15 years; I did nothing. I asked the Board for help; I was so tired of being angry; I wanted a guideline for my life. They said, 'Get out and do programs so you understand why you acted this way.' That caused me to get involved. I went to AA; I took Violence Reduction; I took Anger Management; the Spectrum program covered all the things that got me started. In 2007, I got to Norfolk and I took more programs: Alternatives to Violence; Problem Solving; Emotional Awareness; Jericho Circle; Active Listening; 12 Step. But I was still fighting even though I was going to programs; I had a reputation in prison. I have a reputation now, but that reputation has changed very much from the old one."

Hudson explained the changes he needed to make. "I was selfish, that was my main thing. I was a very nasty person so I work on general behavior. I have worked on anger. I don't get angry anymore; I listen and take it in before making decisions. I started to work on things in 2005. Every day is a test but I have made good progress. I work on it every day; I work on attitude, selfishness, and general behaviors." Hudson works in Industries, where he has been a machine operator for three years. He is working to obtain a GED and described that "as a very important goal for me now." He said he struggles with the reality of the murders and he has had difficulty "talking about what I did to those men." He reported that he had some counseling through the Problem Solving program.

In considering his suitability for parole, Hudson was candid. "I know I ripped a community apart with my selfishness. I have so many victims. I have a lot of work still to be done and I will put 100% into it. I don't deserve a parole after these things but I am making the proper steps to make everything whole. I can talk about what I did, but the emotion is very difficult. I think, 'How can you do that to someone else?'"

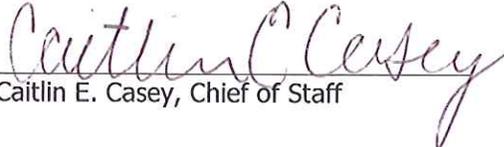
Suffolk Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni spoke in opposition to parole. There were no supporters of parole present.

**IV. DECISION**

Jefferson Hudson committed two homicides to protect a high-volume crack dealing operation. He continued with extreme antisocial behavior for many years. As Hudson said, "I wasted the first 15 years." Hudson has, however, made a concerted effort to rehabilitate since his first parole hearing in 2005. He described his work to address issues of "anger, selfishness, attitude, and general behaviors." He has participated in many programs, has maintained employment, and has significantly improved his conduct. Hudson has demonstrated the ability to reform his character and conduct. He has not had sufficient time, however, to complete the rehabilitation necessary to live in the community.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that, "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." Applying that appropriately high standard here, the Board finds that Mr. Hudson is not a suitable candidate for parole because he needs additional time for rehabilitation. Parole is denied with a review in three years, during which time Hudson should continue with program participation and good behavior.

*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.*

  
Caitlin E. Casey, Chief of Staff

7/15/14  
Date