



VIRGINIA PAROLE BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

**APPROVED 4/23/2025**

REGULAR MEETING: April 9, 2025

LOCATION: Meeting conducted electronically and in person with Board Members and designated staff, assembled at 6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia.

PRESIDING: The Honorable Patricia West, Chair

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: The Honorable Patricia West, Chair  
Lloyd Banks, Vice Chairman  
Michelle Dermeyer, Board Member  
Samuel Boone, Board Member  
C. Phillips Ferguson, Board Member

BOARD STAFF PRESENT: Tina Bowen, Chief Parole Examiner  
Colleen Maxwell, Legal Services Specialist  
Cindy Yadav, Victim Input Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT: Julio Rodriguez-Sotolongo  
BaruchYah Hawkins  
Antoine Burnham  
Jerard Tynes

CALL TO ORDER

The Honorable Patricia West, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MAJORITY

Chair West determined that all members of the Board were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Dermeyer, seconded by Mr. Boone moved to strike Antoine Burnham from the agenda. All members approved of the amended agenda.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon motion by Ms. Dermeyer, with a second by Vice Chair Banks, the minutes of the March 19, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

## PAROLE CONSIDERATIONS

Chair West provided an explanation of the change to § 53.1-136 of the *Code of Virginia* effective July 1, 2024, which requires a public meeting be convened to conduct the final deliberation and vote regarding whether the Board will grant parole to a prisoner.

### Julio Rodriquez-Sotolongo, #1088159

Mr. Rodriquez-Sotolongo was considered for Geriatric Conditional Release and Discretionary Parole.

Chair West provided an overview of Mr. Rodriquez-Sotolongo's circumstances and period of incarceration.

Chair West provided the Board members an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Rodriquez-Sotolongo.

Chair West then called upon each member to give their vote and reason(s) for their vote.

**Chair West – Grant**, based on a stable release plan and community support.

**Vice Chairman Banks – Grant**, based on demonstrated rehabilitation, stable release plan, and his release being compatible with public safety.

**Board Member Boone – Grant**, based on his release being compatible with public safety, stable release plan, and demonstrated rehabilitation.

**Board Member Ferguson – Grant**, based on demonstrated rehabilitation, no infractions in the last 24 months, stable release plan, successful program participation and completion, and length of time served.

**Ms. Dermeyer –Grant**, based on stable release plan and demonstrated rehabilitation.

**Final votes to grant discretionary parole/geriatric conditional release were unanimous.**

Chair West congratulated Mr. Rodriquez-Sotolongo, as all members voted to grant parole. She then reminded him that he must remain of good behavior throughout the re-entry process, as any infraction could put his release in jeopardy. Mr. Rodriquez-Sotolongo would also be provided conditions upon his release.

### BaruchYah Hawkins, #1060929

Mr. Hawkins was considered for both Discretionary Parole and Geriatric Conditional Release, as he meets eligibility criteria for both.

Chair West provided an overview of Mr. Hawkins' circumstances and period of incarceration.

Chair West provided the Board members an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Hawkins.

Chair West then called upon each member to give their vote and reason(s) for their vote.

**Chair West – Not Grant**, due to Mr. Hawkins' risk assessment score.

**Vice Chairman Banks – Grant**, based on Mr. Hawkins' release being compatible with public safety, a stable release plan, and his demonstrated rehabilitation.

**Board Member Boone – Grant**, based on demonstrated rehabilitation and his release being compatible with public safety.

**Board Member Ferguson – Grant**, based on age at offense, demonstrated rehabilitation, remaining infraction free, and institutional adjustment.

**Ms. Dermeyer – Grant**, based on demonstrated rehabilitation, a stable release plan, and his release being compatible with public safety.

**Final votes were four to one in favor of granting discretionary parole/geriatric conditional release.**

Chair West congratulated Mr. Hawkins, as the majority of members voted to grant parole. She then reminded him that he must continue to remain of good behavior throughout the re-entry process, as any infraction could put his release in jeopardy. Mr. Hawkins would also be provided conditions upon his release.

Jerard Tynes, #1033566

Mr. Tynes was considered for Discretionary Parole.

Chair West provided an overview of Mr. Tynes' circumstances and period of incarceration.

Chair West provided the Board members an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Tynes.

Chair West then called upon each member to give their vote and reason(s) for their vote.

**Chair West – Grant**, based on Mr. Tynes' remaining infraction free for 24+ months and no substance use.

**Vice Chairman Banks – Abstained** based on an affiliation with the victim.

**Board Member Boone – Grant**, based on age at the time of the offense and his release being compatible with public safety.

**Board Member Ferguson – Grant**, based on the age at the time of the offense, demonstrated rehabilitation, infraction free for 24+ months, no history of substance abuse, no previous felony convictions, release is compatible with public safety, low risk assessment score, no

victim oppositions, community support, stable release plan, and successful participation in correctional programs.

**Ms. Dermeyer – Grant**, based on age at offense, release is compatible with public safety, stable release plan, successful completion of programs, and remaining infraction free.

**Final votes to grant discretionary parole were unanimous.**

Chair West congratulated Mr. Tynes, as the decision to grant parole was unanimous. She then reminded him that he must continue to remain of good behavior throughout the re-entry process, as any infraction could put his release in jeopardy. Mr. Tynes would also be provided conditions upon his release.

#### NEW BUSINESS

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Vice Chairman Banks and seconded by Mr. Boone, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2025.