



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
INDETERMINATE SENTENCE REVIEW BOARD
P.O. BOX 40907, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0907

DECISION AND REASONS

NAME: SNOW, Lars
DOC #: 750702
FACILITY: Washington Corrections Center – WCC
TYPE OF HEARING: LTJUVBRD Hearing
HEARING DATE: February 21, 2018
PANEL MEMBERS: KR, EB, JP & LRG
FINAL DECISION DATE: March 5, 2018

This matter came before Kecia Rongen, Elyse Balmert, Jeff Patnode, and Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey, who are members of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB or the Board) on the above date for a release hearing in accordance with the provisions of RCW 9.94A.730. Mr. Lars Snow appeared in person. Testimony was provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) Classification Counselor (CC) Margaret Hobbs, Intelligence and Investigations (I & I) Investigator 3 Josh Adams, I & I Investigator 2 Kyle Bettis, and Mr. Snow.

BOARD DECISION:

This was a Deferred Decision. Based on the burden of proof set out in RCW 9.94A.730(3) and the totality of evidence and information provided to the Board, the Board does not find by a preponderance of the evidence that Mr. Snow is more likely than not to commit any new criminal law violations if released on conditions. Consequently, the Board finds Mr. Snow releasable. The actual release date is contingent upon the approval of the Offender Release Plan (ORP) and the mandatory Law Enforcement Notification.

NEXT ACTION:

Submit an Offender Release Plan (ORP) as soon as possible for review and approval by the Board.

JURISDICTION:

RCW 9.94A.730, enacted in 2014, allows offenders who were under the age of 18 when they committed their crime(s) and were sentenced as adults to petition the Board for consideration of early release after serving no less than 20 years of total confinement.

Mr. Snow is incarcerated on a 1995 conviction in Snohomish County; Cause #95-1-01952-2 for Murder in the First Degree. The time start is June 25, 1996. The Court set the original confinement term at 344 months from a Sentencing Reform Act range of 240-320 months. He has served approximately 260 months in prison plus 192 days in jail.

NATURE OF INDEX OFFENSE(S):

File materials describe the offense as Mr. Snow (age 16) and three accomplices robbing a 65-year old male security guard and beating him to death. Mr. Snow reportedly knocked on the office door where the victim was working at an auto sales lot. Mr. Snow then told the victim that a car had been broken into, which was a ruse. When the victim came out to the lot, he was struck in the head with a bottle and kicked in the head. When the victim uttered: "Please don't kill me", Mr. Snow kicked him again in the head and took his wallet. The group then left the victim and split up the \$71 in cash they stole. Mr. Snow and another got \$20 each and the other accomplices got \$15 each, and \$1 was given to the female for bus fare. When contacted by police 12 days after the murder, Mr. Snow was carrying the victim's wallet.

PRIOR CRIMINAL CONDUCT:

Mr. Snow has juvenile convictions for Communication with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, Drug Paraphernalia, First Degree Criminal Trespass, and Driving with a Suspended License.

HISTORY/COMMENTS:

Mr. Snow's last hearing was held on November 16, 2016. At that time the Board found him releasable after transitioning through lower levels of custody on or about November 13, 2017.

The Board recommended Mr. Snow transfer through lower level of custody to include work release.

On October 13, 2017, the Board made a decision to hold another hearing for Mr. Snow after receiving information related to possible Security Threat Group (STG) connections. This information was discovered by the Community Corrections Officer (CCO) who was investigating his Offender Release Plan (ORP).

Since the Board last saw Mr. Snow he has participated in camp and work release. While he was at work release, he obtained two jobs and worked on his release planning. He is currently attending Bridges to Life while at the prison.

Investigator 3 Josh Adams testified that he had spoken to Mr. Snow shortly after he was returned to prison from work release in 2017. He indicated that Mr. Snow had previously been associated with the STG Haken Kruez, but he denied any current association. In addition, Mr. Adams indicated that he completed a “debrief” recently and that person indicated that Mr. Snow is no longer active in Haken Kruez. A de-brief is a formal acknowledgment that they are no longer part of the gang they had previously been associated with, which occurs with an I & I staff. Mr. Adams did acknowledge that in their database there have been individuals going through a debrief who have alleged that Mr. Snow was a leader in Haken Kruez. However, Mr. Adams says that this information could be old, rather than current. For example if an individual came back to prison and wanted to participate in a debrief, they could be referring to when they were in prison previously.

Mr. Snow testified he believes the individuals who shared his name with I & I are relying on old information or are leaders themselves and are trying to take the heat off of them. There was a phone call overheard as recent as 2017, where Mr. Snow was talking to another individual associated with the Haken Kruez. Mr. Snow alleges that the individual was asking advice from him on how to change the Haken Kruez from a “skin color” group to a more religious group. Mr.

Snow indicated he dis-associated with the group because he didn't want to be part of it anymore. When he first began communication with his family again is when he wanted to do better and stay out of trouble.

Mr. Snow read a letter to the Board about his possible plans when he releases and acknowledging the difficult decision that the Board has and how his behavior affects other Juvenile Board cases. He asked the Board to please look at his behavior over the last 10 years and his progress in programs to include obtaining two jobs while at work release. Mr. Snow has indicated he would like to cover up his STG tattoos as soon as he gets out. He would like to be a tattoo artist when he is released and has friends who own shops in Silverdale and Lacey where he can work.

I & I Investigator Kyle Bettis testified that he did talk to Mr. Snow about doing an official de-brief and they came up with a plan to do it at after he transferred to another institution. In addition, Mr. Bettis indicated he specializes in the Skinhead STG and that Mr. Snow's name has not come up recently, and they asked specifically about him. Mr. Snow indicated, if an inmate spends too much time with I & I this can cause safety problems for the inmate, which is why they were going to wait until he transferred.

EVIDENCE CONSIDERED:

In preparation for Mr. Snow's hearing and its decision in this case, the Board completed a review of Mr. Snow's Department of Corrections (DOC) and ISRB files. The Board considered all information contained in those files, including but not limited to: Information provided by the sentencing court/prosecutor; the most recent DOC facility plan; information regarding institutional behavior and programming; any letters of support and/or concerns sent to the Board; and the Pre-Sentence Investigation report. The Board also considered the testimony of the witnesses listed above.

REASONS:

The Board, through testimony and file review, finds that Mr. Snow is not more likely than not to

commit a new crime. As a result of this release decision, Mr. Snow will come under the jurisdiction of the Board. If Mr. Snow incurs a serious infraction prior to release, the Board shall have cause to hold a new hearing based on this new information to determine if he is still releasable.

Mr. Snow's assessed risk by the psychological evaluation is Low to Moderate. He was able to transition through lower levels of custody without problems, obtain employment in the community and continue to make progress in re-integrating into the community. The Board is satisfied at this time that Mr. Snow is not currently active in the STG lifestyle. The Board also does not have a problem with Mr. Snow being a tattoo artist in the community as long as he is not associating with active STG people or tattooing gang tattoos.

KR:ffo

February 23, 2018

March 5, 2018

March 6, 2018

cc: Institution/WCC
Lars SNOW
File/ffo



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DATE: *February 23, 2018*

TO: Full Board

FROM: KR & EB (*Fawn*)

RE: SNOW, Lars / DOC #750702

Panel recommends: Found releasable.

Next action: Submit ORP.

Agree	Disagree
Elyse Balmert 3-5-2018 Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey 3-5-2018 Jeff Patnode 3-5-2018 Kecia Rongen 3-5-2018	