



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

**DECISION AND REASONS**

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NAME: Jones, Melvin  
DOC #: 623519  
FACILITY: Monroe Correctional Complex TRU  
DATE OF HEARING: July 7, 2020  
TYPE OF HEARING: .100  
PANEL MEMBERS: Elyse Balmert and Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey  
FINAL DECISION DATE: July 27, 2020

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This matter came before the above named Board Members of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB or the Board) for a .100 hearing in accordance with RCW 9.95.100. In preparation for the hearing, the Board reviewed Mr. Jones's ISRB file. Mr. Jones appeared in person and was represented by Attorney Cameron Ford. Testimony was provided by Department of Corrections (DOC) Classification Counselor (CC) Monqueescha Walker.

The original recommendation from the Judge and Prosecutor was Life.

**LAST BOARD DECISION:**

At the October 24, 2017 hearing, the Board found Mr. Jones not parolable and added 48 months to his minimum term. The Board recommended that Mr. Jones complete Bridges to Life and be placed in the Skill Building Unit at WCC, to assist with increasing his life skills.

**CURRENT BOARD DECISION:**

Based on the requirements of RCW 9.95.009(3) and RCW 9.95.100 and the totality of evidence and information considered by the Board, the Board finds that Mr. Jones is not parolable and adds 36 months to his minimum term.

**NEXT ACTION:**

Schedule .100 hearing 120 days prior to PERD. The Board requests that a Forensic Psychological Evaluation (FPE) be completed prior to his next hearing as requested by ESRC.

**REASONS FOR DECISION:**

**This was a deferred decision following a full Board discussion, using a structured decision-making framework that takes into consideration; the statistical estimate of risk, criminal history, parole/release history, ability to control behavior, responsivity to programming, demonstrated offender change, release planning, discordant information, and other case specific factors. Based on the requirements of RCW 9.95.100, the Board finds Mr. Jones not parolable for the following reasons:**

- He has been assessed by the End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) as a Level Three and the SVP Subcommittee as needing a Forensic Psychological Evaluation (FPE) which must occur before he can be considered for release.
- He has not mitigated his risk for sexual re-offense.
  - Per Dr. Robtoy's psychological evaluation "Mr. Jones is considered moderate high risk to re-offend according to the risk assessment tools used in this assessment. He is estimated to have some protective factors, but not enough to justify lowering the assessment of risk his release might pose to the community."
  - Assessments
    - SOTAP Static 99-R as a Moderate/High risk (a sex offender actuarial risk assessment)
    - High on the Stable 2007 (measures dynamic risk).
    - SORAG Category 9 (highest)

- VRAG-R 9
  - PCL-R High
  - MnSOST High
- He continues to deny responsibility for committing the murder/rape and had no sight as to why he was charged with two murders/rapes and convicted of one.
  - He has multiple sex offense convictions, with different victims, and a sexual re-offense after being released from a prior sex offense.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Board recommends Mr. Jones be evaluated and successfully complete the current Sex Offender Treatment and Assessment Program, if found eligible, so that he can better understand his high risks and interventions. He should continue to remain Serious Infraction free and take any other programming available to him.

**JURISDICTION:**

Melvin Jones is under the jurisdiction of the Board on a December 10, 1976, conviction of Murder in the First Degree, Count II, under King County Cause #77622. His time start is February 24, 1981. His initial duration of confinement was set by the Board at 347 months. The standard range of the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) at the time was 250 to 333 months. His maximum term is Life. To date Mr. Jones has served approximately 472 months.

**OFFENSE DESCRIPTION:**

File materials describe the underlying Murder as occurring in 1976, and it involved the rape and murder of a young woman in King county. The offense involved the strangulation of an adult female found spread eagle on the floor of her apartment in a bathrobe and having been strangled with the cord of the bathrobe. Mr. Jones' palm print was found on the wall. A large plant had been ripped out of a pot and draped over her body. Numerous items of physical evidence were found on the scene, and Mr. Jones failed a polygraph. He claimed he had been at the victim's

apartment with her boyfriend partying some three weeks prior to the murder. Mr. Jones continues to deny this offense.

Mr. Jones had previously been convicted in 1969 of Indecent Liberties involving a known five year old female. He was described as a close family friend, and the girl told her mother that Mr. Jones had taken her to some nearby woods and molested her. She was bleeding from her vaginal area and semen was found on her underpants. He served approximately six years and was on parole for ten months when he was convicted of the instant offense. This conviction reached the maximum expiration date in 1989.

**PRIOR CRIMINAL / RISK RELATED CONDUCT:**

Mr. Jones was found not guilty at the trial of a second murder that occurred some weeks prior to the instant offense and had striking similarities to the instant offense, wherein his palm print was also found at the scene. This woman was also known to Mr. Jones.

While being evaluated for participation in the Sexual Psychopath Program Mr. Jones admitted to a number of other sexual assaults, and he now indicates that he fabricated all of these stories to help him in his attempt to be admitted into the Sexual Psychopath Program.

Mr. Jones has a juvenile history beginning at age 12, with his first institutional commitment at age 13. From 1965 until his first prison commitment, he continued antisocial activities that repeatedly brought him to the attention of the authorities.

**PROGRESS/BEHAVIOR:**

CC Walker provided an overview of Mr. Jones programming (vocation/education and offender change) since his last .100 hearing. She reported that Mr. Jones has completed Bridges to Life and R.E.A.C.H. and Job Seeking Skills. Mr. Jones is currently working as a Grounds Keeper. He has not incurred any Serious Infractions since his last hearing. Ms. Walker says Mr. Jones'

behavior is good and he is a prosocial person. He participated in the Black History Month programs.

Mr. Jones testified that he disagrees with the facts of the crime as outlined in the ESRC report. He said during the time of his last offense he was leading a criminal lifestyle, was out of tune, out of touch and had no boundaries. Mr. Jones had little insight into why he was accused and convicted of rape and murder which he says he didn't commit. He did admit to sexually assaulting a five year old female. When asked what high risks he identified during sex offender treatment he had difficulty listing and articulating what they were. He hopes to work as a janitor when released and live in a transitional home. Mr. Jones says he has support from his daughter who has 10 children and 12 grandchildren.

Attorney Ford testified that the psychological report suggested that Mr. Jones has improved himself, is prosocial and a better subject for release. He stated Mr. Jones does continue to maintain his innocence but does admit to the crimes he has committed and does not minimize his behaviors. Mr. Ford argued that maintaining his innocence should not go against Mr. Jones and that he is a fit subject for release.

EB:ts

July 27, 2020

July 28, 2020

August 10, 2020

cc: TRU  
Attorney  
File



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P.O. BOX 40907, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0907

TO: Full Board

FROM: Elyse Balmert (TS)

RE: Jones, Melvin DOC #623519

Panel recommends: Find Mr. Jones not parolable and add 36 months to his minimum term.

Next action: Schedule .100 hearing 120 days prior to PERD.

Agree	Disagree
<b>Elyse Balmert 7-27-2020</b> <b>Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey 7-27-2020</b> <b>Jeff Patnode 7-27-2020</b> <b>TaTeasha Davis 7-27-2020</b> <b>Kecia Rongen 7-27-2020</b>	