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Administrative Appeal Decision - Price, Keith (2019-05-10)

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STATE OF NEW YORK – BOARD OF PAROLE

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL DECISION NOTICE

Name: Price, Keith Facility: Livingston CF
NYSID: [REDACTED] Appeal Control No.: 01-194-19 B
DIN: 18-R-2117

Appearances: Keith Price 18R2117
Livingston Correctional Facility
7005 Sonyea Road
P.O. Box 91
Sonyea, New York 14556

Decision appealed: January 2019 decision, denying discretionary release and imposing a hold of hold to ME date.

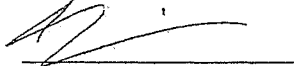
Board Member(s) who participated: Drake, Coppola, Agostini

Papers considered: Appellant’s Letter-brief received March 12, 2019
Appellant’s Supplemental Letter-brief received April 2, 2019

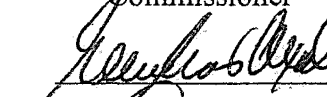
Appeals Unit Review: Statement of the Appeals Unit’s Findings and Recommendation

Records relied upon: Pre-Sentence Investigation Report, Parole Board Report, Interview Transcript, Parole Board Release Decision Notice (Form 9026), COMPAS instrument, Offender Case Plan.

Final Determination: The undersigned determine that the decision appealed is hereby:

 Affirmed Vacated, remanded for de novo interview Modified to _____

Commissioner

 Affirmed Vacated, remanded for de novo interview Modified to _____

Commissioner

 Affirmed Vacated, remanded for de novo interview Modified to _____

Commissioner

If the Final Determination is at variance with Findings and Recommendation of Appeals Unit, written reasons for the Parole Board’s determination must be annexed hereto.

This Final Determination, the related Statement of the Appeals Unit’s Findings and the separate findings of the Parole Board, if any, were mailed to the Inmate and the Inmate’s Counsel, if any, on 5/10/19 gg.

STATE OF NEW YORK – BOARD OF PAROLE

APPEALS UNIT FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATION

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Appellant challenges the January 2019 determination of the Board, denying release and imposing a hold to ME date hold. Appellant's instant offense involved him being found drunk inside the house of an ex-girlfriend who had a stay away from home of order of protection. Appellant's letters ramble on and on and are difficult to decipher. It appears appellant is raising the following issues: 1) there are errors in the Parole Board Report (his residence) and in his criminal history rap sheet. 2) he is either innocent of the charges, and/or there are numerous mitigating factors. 3) the Board failed to mention any facts in support of the statutory standard cited.

Although the Board placed emphasis on the crime, the record reflects it also considered other appropriate factors and it was not required to place equal weight on each factor considered. Matter of Peralta v. New York State Bd. of Parole, 157 A.D.3d 1151, 69 N.Y.S.3d 885 (3d Dept. 2018); Matter of Arena v. New York State Dep't of Corr. & Cmty. Supervision, 156 A.D.3d 1101, 65 N.Y.S.3d 471 (3d Dept. 2017); Matter of Gordon v. Stanford, 148 A.D.3d 1502, 50 N.Y.S.3d 627 (3d Dept. 2017); Matter of Mullins v. New York State Bd. of Parole, 136 A.D.3d 1141, 25 N.Y.S.3d 698 (3d Dept. 2016).

The fact that the Board afforded greater weight to the inmate's criminal history, as opposed to other positive factors, does not render the denial of parole for that reason irrational or improper. Matter of Davis v. Evans, 105 A.D.3d 1305, 963 N.Y.S.2d 485 (3d Dept. 2013); Matter of Lashway v. Evans, 110 A.D.3d 1417, 1418, 974 N.Y.S.2d 164, 165 (3d Dept. 2013); Matter of McKee v. New York State Bd. of Parole, 157 A.D.2d 944, 550 N.Y.S.2d 204 (3d Dept. 1990).

That inmate's prior criminal record and nature of offenses for which incarcerated resulted in parole denial does not reflect irrationality bordering on impropriety. Matter of Singh v. Evans, 118 A.D.3d 1209, 987 N.Y.S.2d 271 (3d Dept.), lv. denied, 24 N.Y.3d 906, 995 N.Y.S.2d 715 (2014).

The fact that the appellant had a prior violation of probation is also a basis for denying parole release. Velasquez v Travis, 278 A.D.2d 651, 717 N.Y.S.2d 702 (3d Dept 2000); Vasquez v New York State Division of Parole, 215 A.D.2d 856, 626 N.Y.S.2d 332 (3d Dept 1995); People ex rel. Herbert v New York State Board of Parole, 97 A.D.2d 128, 468 N.Y.S.2d 881, 884 (1st Dept 1983).

The Board may consider an inmate's need to complete rehabilitative programming in denying parole. See Matter of Allen v. Stanford, 161 A.D.3d 1503, 1506, 78 N.Y.S.3d 445 (3d Dept.), lv. denied, 32 N.Y.3d 903 (2018); Matter of Barrett v. New York State Div. of Parole, 242 A.D.2d 763, 661 N.Y.S.2d 857 (3d Dept. 1997); see also Matter of Connelly v. New York State Div. of Parole,

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286 A.D.2d 792, 729 N.Y.S.2d 808, 809 (3d Dept.), appeal dismissed 97 N.Y.2d 677, 738 N.Y.S.2d 291 (2001).

The Board may consider negative aspects of the COMPAS instrument. Matter of Bush v. Annucci, 148 A.D.3d 1392, 50 N.Y.S.3d 180 (3d Dept. 2017) (COMPAS instrument with mixed results including substance abuse relevant given use before crime); Matter of Wade v. Stanford, 148 A.D.3d 1487, 52 N.Y.S.3d 508 (3d Dept. 2017) (low risk felony violence but probable risk for substance abuse alcohol related crimes); Matter of Crawford v. New York State Bd. of Parole, 144 A.D.3d 1308, 46 N.Y.S.3d 228 (3d Dept. 2016) (scores not uniformly low including family support), lv. denied, 29 N.Y.3d 901, 57 N.Y.S.3d 704 (2017).

That the Board “did not recite the precise statutory language of Executive Law § 259-i (2)(c)(A) in support of its conclusion to deny parole does not undermine its conclusion.” Matter of Mullins v. New York State Bd. of Parole, 136 A.D.3d 1141, 1142, 25 N.Y.S.3d 698 (3d Dept. 2016) (citation omitted); accord Matter of Reed v. Evans, 94 A.D.3d 1323, 942 N.Y.S.2d 387 (3d Dept. 2012). The language used by the Board was “only semantically different” from the statute. Matter of Miller v. New York State Div. of Parole, 72 A.D.3d 690, 691–92, 897 N.Y.S.2d 726, 727 (2d Dept. 2010); Matter of James v. Chairman of New York State Div. of Parole, 19 A.D.3d 857, 858, 796 N.Y.S.2d 735, 736 (3d Dept. 2005); see also People ex rel. Herbert v. New York State Bd. of Parole, 97 A.D.2d 128, 468 N.Y.S.2d 881 (1st Dept. 1983) (upholding decision that denied release as “contrary to the best interest of the community”).

The inmate was allowed to discuss all matters at the interview, including his claim of erroneous information. However, once an individual has been convicted of a crime, it is generally not the Board’s role to reevaluate a claim of innocence. Matter of Silmon v Travis, 95 N.Y.2d 470, 718 N.Y.S.2d 704, 708 (2000); Copeland v New York State Board of Parole, 154 A.D.3d 1157, 63 N.Y.S.3d 548 (3d Dept. 2017). The residence mater was not a part of the final Board decision. An Inmate Status Report containing erroneous information, if not used in the decision, will not lead to a reversal of the parole denial. Restivo v New York State Board of Parole, 70 A.D.3d 1096, 895 N.Y.S.2d 555 (3d Dept. 2010); . Grune v Board of Parole, 41 A.D.3d 1014, 838 N.Y.S.2d 694 (3d Dept. 2007). And as for his rap sheet, that comes from another agency. Pursuant to Executive Law §259-i(2)(c)(A) and 259-k(1), the Board is required to obtain official reports and may rely on the information contained therein. See Billiteri v U.S. Board of Parole, 541 F.2d 938, 944-945 (2d Cir. 1976); Lee v U.S. Parole Commission, 614 F.Supp. 634, 639 (S.D.N.Y. 1985); Carter v Evans, 81 A.D.3d 1031, 916 N.Y.S.2d 291 (3d Dept. 2011) lv. app. den. 16 N.Y.3d 712, 923 N.Y.S.2d 416 (2011).

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In the absence of a convincing demonstration that the Board did not consider the statutory factors set out under Executive Law §259-i, it must be presumed that the Board fulfilled its duty. Jackson v Evans, 118 A.D.3d 701, 987 N.Y.S.2d 422 (2nd Dept. 2014); Tomches v Evans, 108 A.D.3d 724, 968 N.Y.S.2d 888 (3d Dept. 2013); Peo. ex rel. Herbert v. New York State Board of Parole, 97 A.D.2d 128, 133, 468 N.Y.S.2d 881 (1st Dept. 1983); People ex.rel. Haderxhanji v New York State Board of Parole, 97 A.D.2d 368, 467 N.Y.S.2d 38, 382, (1st Dept 1983); Garner v Jones, 529 U.S. 244, 120 S.Ct. 1362, 1371, 146 L.Ed.2d 236 (2000); McLean v New York State Division of Parole, 204 A.D.2d 456, 611 N.Y.S.2d 629 (2d Dept 1994); Zane v Travis, 231 A.D.2d 848, 647 N.Y.S.2d 886, 887 (4th Dept 1996).

Recommendation: Affirm.