MEETING MINUTES
DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING: October 29, 2026

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

PRESIDING: The Honorable Shannon Dion, Chair

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Shannon Dion, Chair
Dr. Kecia Brothers Hayes, Vice Chair
Tyrone Nelson, Board Member
Valerie Boykin, Board Member
Bishop Kevin White, Board Member

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:
Tina Bowen, Chief Parole Examiner
Rayelle Jackson-Sutton, Policy Analyst
Colleen Maxwell, Executive Director
Cindy Yadav, Victim Services Coordinator

DOC STAFF PRESENT: Christopher Randall, Video Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT (via teleconference): Bessie Hope, Juanita Lowery, Regina Watkins, Catherine Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dion called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MAJORITY

Chair Dion determined that all members were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion by Vice Chair Brothers Hayes, which was seconded by Board Member White, the minutes of the October 1, 2026 meeting were approved as written.

NEW BUSINESS - PAROLE CONSIDERATIONS

Bessie Hope, 1063746

Ms. Hope was considered for geriatric conditional release.

Victim input – the Board's Victim Services Coordinator reported that one victim's wife and most family members support parole. Another victim had no interest in the parole process.

Ms. Hope shared a statement with the Board.

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

Board Member White – Grant
Board Member Boykin – Grant
Board Member Nelson – Grant
Vice Chair Brothers Hayes – Grant
Chair Dion – Grant

Final votes: 5 grant and 0 not grant.

Chair Dion called for a recess to allow DOC to transition to the next case. Upon reconvening the meeting, all members certified that no public business was discussed during the recess.

Juanita Lowery, 1140977

Ms. Lowery was considered for geriatric conditional release.

Victim input – the victim's daughter and son participated in the meeting and provided support for their mother's release. Another family member of the victim did not participate but provided a statement in opposition to parole.

Ms. Lowery shared a statement with the Board.

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

Board Member White – Grant

Board Member Boykin – Grant
Board Member Nelson – Grant
Vice Chair Brothers Hayes – Grant
Chair Dion – Grant

Final votes: 5 grant and 0 not grant.

Chair Dion called for a recess to allow DOC to transition to the next case. Upon reconvening the meeting, all members certified that no public business was discussed during the recess.

Regina Watkins, 1065365

Ms. Watkins was considered for considered for geriatric conditional release.

Victim input – family members of the victim provided statements to the Board, which were read during the meeting by Victims Services Coordinator, Ms. Yadav.

Ms. Watkins shared a statement with the Board.

Chair Dion then called upon each member to give their vote and reason(s) for their vote. Board Member Boykin stated that she was not ready to vote. The other members also stated they needed more time before voting. By consensus, the case was continued until the next meeting.

Chair Dion called for a recess to allow DOC to transition to the next case. Upon reconvening the meeting, all members certified that no public business was discussed during the recess.

Catherine Smith, 1293041

Ms. Smith was considered for considered for geriatric conditional release.

Victim input – due to the nature of Ms. Smith's offenses, no victims were involved.

Ms. Smith shared a statement with the Board.

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

Board Member White – Grant
Board Member Boykin – Grant
Board Member Nelson – Grant
Vice Chair Brothers Hayes – Grant
Chair Dion – Grant

Final votes: 5 grant and 0 not grant.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion made by Board Member Boykin, with a second by Vice Chair Brothers Hayes, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:48 AM.