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Three Granted Parole, Nine Denied During Latest Parole Board Hearing

Crime / **Published On February 03, 2022 05:31 AM /**

Staff Consortium **February 03, 2022**

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Stephanie Ziegler, who was convicted in 2018 of negligent homicide after killing a woman and her unborn child while driving drunk, was denied parole. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT

The V.I. Parole Board granted three inmates parole during the board's latest hearing held December and continued in January, among them a an individual convicted on a possession of an unlicensed firearm charge, along with two men imprisoned for second-degree murder.

The board also denied nine parole requests, according to a release issued by the V.I. Bureau of Corrections Wednesday.

Nathaniel Hazel was one of two individuals imprisoned for second-degree murder who was granted parole. Hazel was arrested in October 2000 at the Aureo Diaz housing community following a shooting incident that left one man dead. At the time, current Senator Novelle Francis was deputy police chief.

In June 2017, the V.I.P.D. issued a press release seeking assistance in locating Hazel, who at the time was wanted for [allegedly shooting a man several times in Frederiksted](#).

Joel Vicars, also imprisoned for second-degree murder, was granted parole as well. Vicars in September 2008 was charged with murder in connection with a homicide that occurred in Magens Bay. Earlier the same year, in March, Vicars was [one of the most wanted men in the USVI](#) before he was apprehended.

According to Manshoory Law, first-degree murders are the most serious and punished accordingly, involving premeditated murder and intentional murder. Second-degree murders are the next step down but still involve intent to harm or to kill. Third-degree murders are the lowest level of criminal homicide but can still result in serious sentences.

Among the nine individuals denied parole was [Stephanie Ziegler](#), who on April 5, 2018 was driving under the influence of alcohol, crashed into a vehicle and killed 25-year-old Fatima Brown and her unborn child. The St. Croix community was angered by the drunk driver's mugshot, which showed Ziegler smiling. On Dec. 14, 2018 she received the [maximum five-year sentence for negligent homicide](#).

The hearing was first held in Dec. 2021 and continued on Jan. 13, 2022, according to B.O.C. During the Dec. hearing, four parole applicants were reviewed, while eight were reviewed on Jan. 13.

Inmate's Name	Offense(s) Committed	Parole Status
Abdul Pemberton	Possession of an unlicensed firearm	Parole Granted
Stephanie Ziegler	Negligent Homicide	Parole Denied
Shawn Akeem Joseph	Voluntary Manslaughter	Parole Denied
Jahzeel Fenton	First Degree Assault/Domestic Violence	Parole Denied

Inmate's Name	Offense(s) Committed	Parole Status
Nathaniel Hazel	Second degree murder/parole revocation	Parole Granted
Joel Vicars	Second degree murder/grand larceny	Parole Granted
Isaiah Simmons	Third Degree Assault	Parole Denied
Richard Ireland	First Degree Assault	Parole Denied
Charlesworth Gonsalves	Second Degree Aggravated Rape/Child Abuse/DV	Parole Denied
Nicholas Albert	First Degree Murder (while a minor)/Escape from Jail	Parole Denied
Jahmal Todman	Possession of a Firearm in a School Zone	Parole Denied
Josiah Hodge	Second Degree Murder/unauthorized possession of a firearm	Parole Denied

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