



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**RONALD DEWOLFE**

**Aka MUHAMMAD MAHDI**

**W37388**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** May 10, 2011

**DATE OF DECISION:** May 4, 2012

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Cesar Archilla, John Bocon, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Parole is denied with a review in five years. The decision is unanimous.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

Ronald DeWolfe forcibly raped a 13-year-old girl on June 24, 1978. He was convicted at trial and given a life sentence for Rape of Child by Force. The Parole Board denied parole in 1993 (review in three years), 1996 (inmate waiver), 2001 (inmate postponed), and 2006 (review in five years).

The facts of the offense are horrific. Mr. DeWolfe tricked the victim into coming to his apartment in the evening hours. He assaulted her with a butcher knife, and repeatedly threatened to kill her with the knife unless she complied with his demands. The child resisted and cried, but Mr. DeWolfe persisted with the threats. When Mr. DeWolfe put the knife down in order to pursue the sexual assault using both hands, the victim tried to escape from the room. Mr. DeWolfe grabbed her, choked her, and threw her back on the bed. The child cried as Mr. DeWolfe completed the rape. The victim

fled after the sexual assault and reported the crime immediately. Mr. DeWolfe was found in his apartment, intoxicated, and hiding under a bed. (When police first entered the apartment, they saw a note left by Mr. DeWolfe saying he had left town; police searched the apartment anyway.)

At trial, Mr. DeWolfe presented a defense of insanity. He testified and claimed no memory of the events; he denied the rape; claimed not to know the victim; and asserted that he had blackouts and heard voices. Two psychiatrists testified that Mr. DeWolfe was criminally responsible and that he exaggerated his symptoms. Based on statements and admissions Mr. DeWolfe has made in parole proceedings, it is clear that his trial testimony about the crime was intentionally false.

## **II. OTHER CRIMES**

Mr. DeWolfe has a remarkable record of sexual offenses. He has committed two serious crimes while on parole. His pattern is to re-offend whenever he is released from a period of incarceration; some of the offenses have been within days of release from custody. Some of the parole decisions made decades ago are inexplicable by today's standards. The following list records the offenses.

1963: robbery conviction

March 1964: paroled

March 1964: three days after being paroled, Mr. DeWolfe assaulted his female neighbor with a knife; he is convicted of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon

July 1964: re-paroled

November 1964: "indiscreet conduct" results in parole violation and return to custody

April 3, 1966: DOC discharge

April 20, 1966: kidnapped, beat, and raped a waitress who had just left work; used a weapon to assault the victim (unclear if weapon was a gun or a knife); rape conviction (and related convictions) result in sentence of 7-10 years

November 8, 1974: paroled

November 12, 1974: assaulted a woman in a bar with a knife; violated his parole but re-paroled

June 4, 1975: threatened to kill a woman who prevented him from dating her 16-year-old daughter

June 7, 1975: used a knife and assaulted 22-year-old female neighbor; Mr. DeWolfe threatened the victim with the knife and tried to rape her; she escaped; police found Mr.

DeWolfe in his apartment, naked, passed out due to intoxication, with two long knives near him; parole was revoked; assault with intent to rape charge dismissed for lack of speedy trial; Mr. DeWolfe admitted to these facts at his parole hearing on May 10, 2011

August 1977: released from sentence

November 20, 1977: attacked a maid at a hotel; grabbed her by the throat, held a knife to her throat, and demanded she lay down on bed, victim escaped and reported crime immediately; convicted of assault with intent to rape and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon; sentenced to serve 10-15 years, with concurrent term of 9 -10 years; this crime occurred seven months before the governing offense, but the charges and convictions did not occur until several years after the governing offense; it is unknown (to the Parole Board) what caused the delayed prosecution

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON MAY 10, 2011**

Mr. DeWolfe seeks to be paroled to his civil commitment as a sexually dangerous person. He said that he could then receive "treatment in the community," including living in transitional housing.

Mr. DeWolfe acknowledged that he is a sociopath. He was unable to explain what factors contributed to his psychological condition. He admitted that he committed the governing offense as well as four other sexual assaults that he was charged with or convicted of. He admitted that he lied previously about the other sexual assaults, denying them, because he thought maintaining innocence would help him with an appeal.

In prison, Mr. DeWolfe was determined a sexually dangerous person in 1988. He has numerous Bridgewater State Hospital admissions. Staff have documented that he faked some symptoms of mental illness and is a pathological liar.

On April 20, 2010, the Community Access Board concluded in its annual review that Mr. DeWolfe remains a sexually dangerous person and that he "has not made sufficient progress in many areas of treatment." The Board stated its conclusion that Mr. DeWolfe displays antisocial personality disorder and paraphilia (as "evidenced by his history of forcing women into sexual contact").

Mr. DeWolfe is enrolled in sexual offender treatment, but he routinely fails to attend his group sessions and has failed to complete important required written assignments. He has received 23 disciplinary reports, including six since his last parole hearing. Of the recent reports, two were for fighting and one was for threatening a correction officer. Mr. DeWolfe has acknowledged his history of substance abuse issues with alcohol, marijuana, and mescaline.

Plymouth Assistant District Attorney Shelby Smith spoke in opposition to parole. There were no supporters of parole in attendance.

### **III. DECISION**

Parole is denied. Ronald DeWolfe has committed several violent sexual offenses, including offenses committed while on parole. He has shown indifference to sexual offender treatment and there is no evidence of rehabilitation. He remains extremely dangerous; his release would likely lead to violent sexual re-offense and is not compatible with the welfare of society.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.*

Josh Wall  
Josh Wall, Chairman

May 4, 2012  
Date