



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Andrea J. Cabral
Secretary

Telephone # (508) 650-4500
Facsimile # (508) 650-4599

Josh Wall
Chairman

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

GLEN BOVAT

W44984

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 11, 2014

DATE OF DECISION: September 25, 2014

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

DECISION OF BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by a unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in five years.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Glen Bovat is serving two concurrent life sentences for two aggravated rapes committed against separate victims on June 14, 1987 and November 7, 1987. He pled guilty, and was sentenced in Hampden Superior Court on June 7, 1988. In addition to the rapes, Bovat also pled guilty to three indictments for kidnapping, two indictments for assault and battery, and single indictments for assault to rape, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a dangerous weapon, and malicious damage to property. These other charges were either filed or received sentences that have expired. Bovat is also facing a from and after sentence, which was imposed in Federal Court on September 19, 1988, for fashioning a metal cylinder that was eventually used in bombing a car dealership. He is requesting parole to this sentence.

The following is the account of the June 14, 1987 incident, as related by the 23-year-old victim to the Wilbraham Police. The victim had been at a club in Three Rivers, Massachusetts with some friends, and needed a ride home. While seeking a friend for a ride home, she

noticed Bovat, whom she had previously met through friends, and asked for a ride home. Bovat agreed.

While driving, Bovat informed the victim that he needed to make a stop at a friend's house, and she said "okay." Bovat briefly visited his friend while the victim waited in the car, and then returned. While driving towards the victim's home, Bovat changed route, and the victim asked where he was going. He told her he needed to make another stop, and then turned onto a dirt road, and pulled into a clearing near some railroad tracks.

Bovat offered the victim a beer, and tried talking to her, but she kept asking him to take her home. Bovat exited the car, claiming he needed to relieve himself. He returned shortly thereafter, opened the passenger door, and attempted to kiss the victim. She again told him she wanted to go home, but he got in the car and continued to try to kiss and grope her.

The victim got out of the car and started to walk away. Bovat ran up behind her, grabbed her by the neck and knocked her down. He picked her up, grabbed her by the throat, pinned her against the car, and threatened to bash her head in. Bovat started unbuttoning the victim's blouse, and when she resisted, he threatened to kill her by tying her to the train tracks and leaving her to be run over by a train.

Bovat tore off the victim's bra, and when she pleaded for him to stop, he got angry and dragged her to the back of the car, opened the trunk, and told her to get in. She refused, and he took the car jack from the trunk and threatened to bash her head in. The victim fought to get away, and Bovat picked her up and unsuccessfully attempted to put her in the trunk. He then led the victim along a path deeper into the woods, and forced her to perform sexual acts multiple times while threatening to bash her head in with a rock if she failed to comply.

Several hours later, Bovat brought the victim to his car and apologized, saying he loved her, did not want to hurt her, and that he felt like a jerk. While driving the victim home, Bovat kept asking her if she was mad at him and kept apologizing for his earlier conduct. In an effort to avoid getting him angry, the victim pretended to be okay, and took his phone number, telling him she would call him to get together for a date later.

After arriving home, the victim reported the incident to the Wilbraham Police, and Bovat was subsequently arrested on charges of kidnapping, rape, attempted rape, assault with intent to commit rape and assault and battery. Bovat's bail was set at \$25,000. He posted bail, and had been released into the community on bail conditions at the time of the second incident, approximately five months later on November 7, 1987.

The following is the account of the 29-year old victim, as related to Palmer Police on the date of the offense. On November 7, 1987, Bovat encountered two women at a bar in Bondsville, around closing time. Bovat approached the driver and her friend and asked for a ride to Three Rivers. The driver knew Bovat, and agreed to give him a ride. She drove with her friend in the front passenger seat and Bovat in the back. Bovat asked the driver to pull over so he could relieve himself. After she did so, he exited the car and returned with a large rock in hand. He then opened the passenger side door, tore out the ceiling light, smashed the rear view mirror, and attempted to remove the key from the ignition, while the passenger struggled to prevent him from doing so.

During the struggle Bovat broke off the key in the ignition, and thereafter began aggressively groping the women. He ordered the front passenger to the back seat, and forced himself upon the driver, kissing and feeling her all over. At one point, Bovat reclined the front seat, got on top of the driver, and began undressing and sexually fondling her while she screamed for him to stop. He forcibly attempted to penetrate her vagina, but was unsuccessful because he was unable to achieve an erection. He then placed his knees on top of her and attempted to sexually violate her in another fashion, while threatening her with a rock. The driver continuously resisted, and at some point Bovat exited the car and allowed her to put on her pants. The driver immediately locked the car doors after he exited, but was forced to reopen them because she needed to throw up and Bovat was threatening to smash the windows.

Bovat stood over the victim as she threw up outside the car. He then ordered her friend out of the car, claiming they were all going for a walk to a vacant house. The women kept begging Bovat to let them go, but he refused, saying they would call the police. He held them both by the belt loops at the back of their pants and led them up a hill along the side of the road. A van drove by slowly and the women began screaming for help. When the van slowed to a stop, Bovat took off running into the woods. The driver of the van took the women to the police station. In reporting the incident, both women commented that Bovat's behavior "was very erratic ranging from calm to very excited to very angry and threatening."

II. PAROLE HISTORY

This is Bovat's third parole hearing. After his initial parole hearing on October 3, 2002, he was denied parole to be reviewed in five years. A second review hearing was held on October 23, 2007, and he was again denied parole to be reviewed in five years. The first denial was primarily based on his having committed multiple sex offenses and his non-involvement in the sex offender treatment program. The second denial was mainly due to his poor institutional behavior and insufficient sex offender programming. He postponed his third hearing until 2014.

III. INSTITUTIONAL CONDUCT

Bovat has incurred 33 disciplinary reports over the course of this incarceration, mostly for violating institution rules and possessing unauthorized items. Since his last parole hearing in 2007, he incurred three minor disciplinary reports. His last was on February 18, 2014, for possessing a box containing a spider. Since the 2007 hearing, Bovat has completed the Sex Offender Treatment Program at the Massachusetts Treatment Center in Bridgewater, Massachusetts. He previously completed Violence Reduction, Cognitive Skills, Introduction to 12 Steps, Relapse Prevention and Alternatives to Violence (three phases).

IV. PAROLE HEARING ON MARCH 11, 2014

Glen Bovat said he postponed his previously scheduled hearing in order to complete the Sex Offender Treatment Program (hereafter, "the program"), because the Parole Board last denied him parole for failure to complete it. He has been held at the Massachusetts Treatment Center since 2009, and has completed the program.

Bovat said he learned a lot about himself as a result of completing the program. He has "learned to ask for help, and to "deal with matters in a prosocial way." Around the time of the governing offenses, he had been holding a lot of grudges and resentment from a prior relationship, and he has since learned to "let go and forgive others" who have "wronged" him.

Bovat said "the word forgiveness was just a word" before he offended, and only became more tangible after he came to prison and realized that he had not forgiven himself. In looking back, he realized that had he forgiven people in his past, he would have "been able to tolerate rejection." Because he was unable to forgive, he held onto negative emotions until he "exploded."

With respect to his background, Bovat said that he had a "pretty normal childhood." He graduated from high school and had no troubles in school. He was age 27 at the time of the offenses, and was working as a machinist. Around the time of the first incident, he was in a "pretty unhealthy relationship" with a woman, and they both used alcohol and sex "as coping."

On the day of the first incident, Bovat and his girlfriend had had an argument over her going to a party and not wanting him to accompany her. He felt "rejected," and "was kind of pissed off and angry." Later that day, he left work and "started drinking right away." While at a pay phone trying to find out where his girlfriend was, the victim approached Bovat and asked him for a ride home.

Bovat said he agreed to give the victim a ride, because he had always like her, and thought he could start up a relationship. He had some beers in a cooler in the vehicle, so he pulled over at a hang-out "spot" to drink. He then started kissing and fondling the victim's breasts, and she pulled away and ran out the car. He felt "rejected and humiliated," and ran after the victim. He caught her after she tripped and fell, brought her back to the car, ripped off her bra, and further sexually assaulted her. At some point, he realized he was hurting the victim, so he "felt bad and stopped."

Bovat said he made \$25,000 bail a couple days after his arrest. He was "let go" from his job, and he tried to get another, but could not. He was "pretty bummed out about being on bail," and "was in denial about what happened." He was still with his girlfriend, but she was being pressured by a lot of people to break up with him. He was "drinking heavily at the time to cope with a lot of stuff."

During this time, Bovat's brother-in-law got him a job in construction. He was employed for a construction company at the time of the second incident on November 7, 1987. That evening, after he returned from work, his girlfriend told him she wanted to break up with him. This made him very angry. Later that evening, he met some coworkers at a bar in Ware, and started drinking after he learned that his brother-in-law, who had gotten him the job, was to be fired in preference of him. He got a ride to another bar, where he met the victim¹ and her friend, and asked for a ride to his friend's house.

¹ Both women were victims of Bovat's actions. We use the term "victim" to refer to the driver, as she is the victim of the aggravated rape for which Bovat is serving a concurrent life sentence.

While the victim was driving, Bovat asked her to pull over on a dirt road beside some water towers. After she did so, he leaned forward and kissed her on the cheek. The victim gave him a questioning look and he felt "humiliated." He told them he was leaving the car to urinate, because he wanted to "think and regain [his] composure." He "got the feeling of "I deserve to be treated better than this," and his "anger and resentment" came to the surface.

Bovat said he picked up a rock and used it to coerce the women. He said the victim's friend was scared, and complied with his orders. He then showed the rock to the victim and said: "We could do this the easy way or the hard way."

After he sexually assaulted the victim in various manners, he looked up and saw her crying, and "kind of realized that [he] was hurting her more than humiliating her." He stopped and "apologized for doing what [he] did." In recounting this instance, he said:

I felt real stupid. I felt that I couldn't control myself at the moment, and I was real frustrated at that... I went out and left the car, just to go outside and think: 'How am I going to get out of this? What am I going to do now?'

When I was in the driver's seat, I tried to start the car to get some heat ... and the key broke in the ignition ..., so I thought we could go to my friend's house ... which we were originally going to... It was just a little ways into the woods.

I thought we could walk there, and I could let them use the phone, and I could try to talk them into not calling the cops on me and what not.

With respect to his reintegration plan, Bovat said he would like to be paroled to his 18-month Federal sentence, and then to live with his parents in Palmer, Massachusetts. He said both his parents are in their late seventies and retired, and he would like to help them around the house. He said he also has a friend who runs a machine shop willing to give him a job upon release. Once in the community, he plans to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and continue with sex offender treatment.

No one spoke in support of Bovat at the hearing. There were no members of the public who appeared in opposition to Bovat's parole release. Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Howard Safford was present. He said it was his impression that Bovat has learned a lot, and that he believes Bovat still has a lot to learn. He later submitted a letter commending Bovat for rehabilitative efforts and insightfulness, and also raising concern over the victims' "fear of having [Bovat] back in the community."

V. DECISION

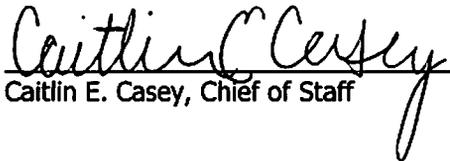
Glen Bovat's conduct has improved since his last parole hearing in 2007, and he has successfully completed the sex offender treatment program. Given the nature of the two incidents and Bovat's explanation for them, however, the Board remains concerned that Bovat still presents an unacceptable risk to public safety.

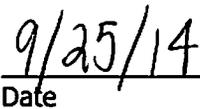
Bovat reports that he had a normal upbringing, and seems to impute his criminal conduct simply to feelings of humiliation from being rejected by women. Clearly, it is not that simple. Given that his conduct falls well beneath the range of acceptable civilized behavior, it is reasonable to conclude that Bovat has not developed sufficient insight into the factors underlying his impulses to sexually dominate and humiliate women, and possibly to do further harm.

Bovat exhibited distorted thinking if he seriously thought the victim from the first incident had accepted his apology and wanted to date him after he forcibly raped, humiliated and threatened to kill her. The fact that the victim had quickly reported the incident, and that he had serious charges pending likely weighed on him as he contemplated his extrication from the second incident. If he honestly believed that he could have verbally convinced both victims of this second incident from reporting the matter, this would only serve to confirm that he was not grounded in reality. His presentation at the hearing leaves us unconvinced that this has changed.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that, "Parole Board members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." Applying that appropriately high standard here, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Mr. Bovat does not merit parole at this time. The review will be in five years, during which time Mr. Bovat should continue to rehabilitate his sexual deviancy, violence against women, and distorted thinking.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.


Caitlin E. Casey, Chief of Staff


Date