



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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**DECISION  
IN THE MATTER OF**

**CHARLES CHASE**

**W53730**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing  
**DATE OF HEARING:** June 23, 2015  
**DATE OF DECISION:** December 10, 2015

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sheila Dupre, Tonomey Coleman, Ina Howard-Hogan, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Lee Gartenberg.

**DECISION OF THE 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, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in five years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On May 26, 1993, in Bristol Superior Court, Charles Chase was convicted of the second degree murder of Albert Renauld. Subsequently he was sentenced to life in prison, with the possibility of parole. On that date, he was also convicted of larceny over \$250 and theft of a motor vehicle, for which he received concurrent sentences of 14 to 15 years and 3 to 5 years, respectively. On June 1, 1994, in Bristol Superior Court, Mr. Chase was convicted of multiple counts of armed robbery and assault with a dangerous weapon, for which he received concurrent sentences of 15-20 years and 3 to 5 years, respectively. These sentences were ordered to run from and after the life sentence Mr. Chase was serving at the time.

On October 22, 1991, Charles Chase and a co-defendant went to the North Dartmouth Mall in Dartmouth Massachusetts. While there, Mr. Chase broke into a truck owned by Mr. Renauld, broke the ignition on the truck and started the engine. Mr. Chase then accelerated

the truck rapidly, causing the tires to screech. Mr. Renauld, who had emerged from the mall, began to run toward the driver's side door of the truck when Mr. Chase drove directly into him without slowing down. The door of the truck impacted with Mr. Renauld's chest and stomach, throwing him into the air. As Mr. Renauld lay severely wounded on the ground, Mr. Chase sped off. Mr. Renauld succumbed to his injuries the next day.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 23, 2015**

Mr. Chase came before the Parole Board on June 23, 2015 for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Brian Kelly at the time. This was Mr. Chase's second appearance before the Board on this matter, and it occurred at his request. Mr. Chase's initial hearing took place on April 10, 2007 and resulted in parole being denied. Subsequently, he postponed his next scheduled review hearing in 2012, until now. Mr. Chase had, however, been granted parole on a prior occasion. On September 3, 1991 Mr. Chase was released on parole while serving a 30 month sentence. He was under parole supervision for this sentence in October of 1991 when he committed the offenses forming the basis for this hearing.

Mr. Chase gave an opening statement to the Board, in which he acknowledged his poor institutional adjustment, stating: "I was looking at life in prison, I gave up and started getting in trouble." He further explained to the Board that he turned to crime as a means of financial support and admitted to the commission of uncharged criminal conduct that occurred while he was under parole supervision in 1991. Mr. Chase informed the Board that his issues have "always been violence towards others."

The Board also acknowledges Mr. Chase's poor institutional adjustment. Of particular concern to the Board is Mr. Chase's poor record of institutional behavior, including 19 years in the Department Disciplinary Unit and 187 disciplinary reports. A total of six of these reports were written since Mr. Chase's last appearance before the Board, five of which resulted in guilty findings. Mr. Chase, however, has made some progress towards rehabilitation. The Board notes that upon completion of the Spectrum High Risk Offender Program, Mr. Chase was released to general population where he took advantage of programs such as: Anger Management, Alternatives to Violence, Cognitive Skills Workshop, Path to Freedom, Computer Skills, and Violence Reduction.

Although the Board received numerous written submissions in support of Mr. Chase, no witnesses testified on his behalf at the hearing. An Assistant District Attorney from Bristol County, Daniel Hourihan, did appear on behalf of the Commonwealth in opposition to parole. ADA Hourihan underlined his argument in opposition by pointing out Mr. Chase's failure to fully accept responsibility for his crimes; his poor institutional disciplinary record and the fact that he was on parole at the time the offenses in this case were committed.

## **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Chase has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes a longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to Mr. Chase's rehabilitation.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess candidates for parole is: "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." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Chase's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Chase is not yet rehabilitated and therefore does not merit parole at this time. Mr. Chase's next appearance before the Board will take place in five years from the date of this review hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Chase to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

*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.*

  
Michael Callahan, Executive Director

December 10, 2015  
Date