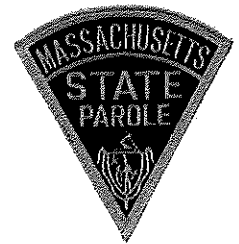




The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4599

Tonomey A. Coleman
Acting Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

BRUCE CHAMBERS
W39246

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: April 15, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: September 11, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On October 15, 1982, in Suffolk County Superior Court, Bruce Chambers was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Marion Palmariello.² He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Bruce Chambers became parole eligible following the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in *Commonwealth v. Mattis*, 493 Mass. 216 (2024), where the court held that sentencing individuals who were ages 18 through 20 at the time of the offense (emerging adults) to life without the possibility of parole is unconstitutional. As a result of the SJC's decision in regard to Mr. Chamber's first-degree murder conviction, he was re-sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

On April 15, 2025, Bruce Chambers appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Matthew Koes. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Bruce Chambers' April 15, 2025, hearing.

¹ Board Member Ortiz was not present for the hearing, but he reviewed the video recording and the entirety of the file prior to vote. Former Chair Hurley participated in the hearing, but departed the Board prior to the decision.

² At the time of the crime, Mr. Chambers was on probation out of Suffolk Superior Court.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On October 18, 1981, 20-year-old Bruce Chambers, along with his co-defendant 17-year-old Edward Palmariello, participated in the strangling death of Mr. Palmariello's 53-year-old mother, Marion Palmariello.

On November 4, 1981, a group of hunters discovered Marion Palmariello's body in a wooded area about 150 feet from Route 93 in southern New Hampshire. Marion Palmariello was 53-years-old and lived in East Boston with her son, Edward Palmariello. There was a great deal of hostility between Mr. Palmariello and his mother. During one argument a week or two before the murder, when Ms. Palmariello yelled at her son, Mr. Chambers said, "I'd like to take your mother and tie her up and gag her and stick her on the first floor just to shut her up." Mr. Palmariello responded to his comment by laughing.

On the day of the murder, Mr. Palmariello and his friend, Bruce Chambers, were painting inside the Palmariello house. At some point during that day, and with Mr. Palmariello's knowledge, Mr. Chambers used an extension cord to strangle and kill Marion Palmariello. After determining that she was dead, Mr. Palmariello suggested that they call police. Mr. Chambers said, "You're just as much at fault as I am." The two removed the victim's jewelry to make it appear that she had been robbed, and they put her body in a cardboard box. They stole a car, placed the box in the car, and drove to New Hampshire. They eventually stopped, removed the victim's body, carried it over a fence, dragged it into the woods, and left. Edward Palmariello and Bruce Chambers were arrested approximately a week later for the murder.

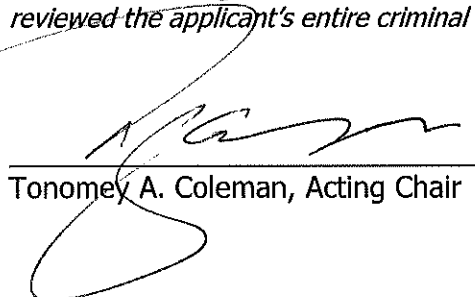
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board.

Where a parole candidate was convicted of first-degree murder for a crime committed when he was ages 18 through 20 years old, the Board considers the "unique aspects" of emerging adulthood that distinguish emerging adult offenders from older offenders. *Commonwealth v. Mattis*, 493 Mass. 216, 238 (2024). Individuals who were emerging adults at the time of the offense must be afforded a "meaningful opportunity to obtain release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation" and the Board evaluates "the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, including the age of the offender, together with all relevant information pertaining to the offender's character and actions during the intervening years since conviction." *Id.* (citing *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk Dist.*, 466 Mass. 655, 674 (2013) (*Diatchenko I*); *Miller v. Alabama*, 567 U.S. 460, 471 (2012); *Graham v. Florida*, 560 U.S. 48, 75 (2010)). Since brain development in emerging adulthood is ongoing, the Board also considers the following factors when evaluating parole candidates who committed the underlying offenses as an emerging adult: 1) a lack of impulse control in emotionally arousing situations; 2) an

increased likelihood to engage in risk taking behaviors in pursuit of reward; 3) increased susceptibility to peer influence which makes emerging adults more likely to engage in risky behavior; and 4) an emerging adult's greater capacity for change. *See Mattis*, 493 Mass. at 225-229.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Chambers made his initial appearance before the Board as a result of the SJC's Mattis decision. Mr. Chambers has been incarcerated for almost 44 years. He has remained disciplinary report free since 2021. He has had minimal participation in programming. The Board finds that Mr. Chambers would benefit from programming. The Board recommends Mr. Chambers participate in group programming, such as Jericho Circle, to build on his interpersonal skills and assist in expected challenges with returning to the community. The Board considered the evaluation of Forensic Psychologist Dr. DiCataldo and finds his recommendations that Mr. Chambers participate in rehabilitative programming to increase his social skills and build a support network are noteworthy. The Board also notes that Mr. Chambers can request an earlier review hearing if he presents evidence of engagement in pro-social programming. The Board considered public testimony from three individuals in support of parole. The Board also heard testimony from Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood in opposition to parole. The Board considered factors related to Mattis in rendering its decision. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Chambers has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release 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. 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.



Tonomey A. Coleman, Acting Chair

9/11/25

Date