

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*



**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*

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

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**CHARLES CHAPLES**

**W39624**

**TYPE OF HEARING:**        **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:**       **November 21, 2019**

**DATE OF DECISION:**      **June 4, 2020**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy, Colette Santa

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On March 24, 1983, in Bristol Superior Court, Charles Chaples was convicted of the second-degree murder of Raymond Santos and sentenced to life in prison. He also received concurrent sentences of three to five years for larceny and for breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony.

Mr. Chaples, now 59-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on November 21, 2019 and was represented by Boston College law students Katherine Petrino and Abbey Rosenfeld. The entire video recording of Mr. Chaples' November 21, 2019 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of 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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>1</sup> Reserve to an approved home plan, but not before completion of 12 months in lower security. Since his last hearing, he has addressed his causative factors through meaningful treatment/programming. Release after a gradual transition meets the legal standard. It is the opinion of the Board that he has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

<sup>1</sup> One Board Member voted to deny parole with a two-year review.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate 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.

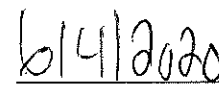
In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Chaples' institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Chaples' risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Chaples' case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Chaples is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to an approved home plan, but not before 12 months in lower security; Approve home plan before release; Waive work for two weeks; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Supervise for drugs; testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence; testing in accordance with agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health counseling for depression and adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times a week.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The above decision is an abbreviated administrative decision issued in an effort to render an expedited resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Chaples, through counsel, has waived his right to a full administrative decision.

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

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date