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PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

CHARLES CHASE

W53730

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: December 6, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: January 18, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 26, 1993, after a jury trial in Bristol Superior Court, Charles Chase was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Albert Renauld. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.¹ On that same date, he received a fourteen to fifteen-year sentence for theft of a motor vehicle, as well as a three to five-year sentence for larceny. Both sentences were ordered to run concurrently with his life sentence.

Mr. Chase appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on December 6, 2022. He was represented by Attorney Brian Kelly. Mr. Chase was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2007 and after his review hearings in 2015 and 2020.² Mr. Chase postponed his 2012 hearing. The entire video recording of Mr. Chase's December 6, 2022, 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.³

¹ Mr. Chase's co-defendants were Roy Farias and Christopher Gluchaki.

² On August 1, 2022, pursuant to a reconsideration request submitted by Mr. Chase, the Board reduced the three-year setback it prescribed in 2020 to a two-year setback. Thus, Mr. Chase's subsequent review hearing took place in 2022.

³ One Board member voted to deny parole.

Reserve to LTRP after one year in lower security. On October 22, 1991, 24-year-old Mr. Chase murdered Albert Renauld by running him over with a truck. The Board notes that Mr. Chase's institutional adjustment has dramatically improved in recent years. He has completed significant programming to include Criminal Thinking, Path of Freedom, Alternatives to Violence, and Cognitive Skills Workshops. Mr. Chase demonstrated remorse for his crime and that he has developed tools to control his anger and impulsivity. During his time in lower security, the Board encourages him to formalize his reentry plan and identify solid community support.

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. Chase's 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. Chase's risk of recidivism. Applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Chase's case, the Board is of the opinion that Charles Chase is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to LTRP; Waive work for program; Curfew – Must be at home between 10pm and 6am; 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 or association with any hate group or gang; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health evaluation and follow recommendations; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow recommendations; Counseling for adjustment/transition; Mandatory – sign all releases.

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



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

1/18/23
Date