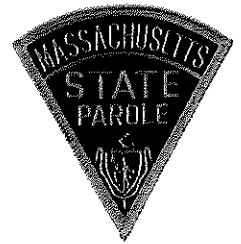


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

CHARLES CHASE
W53730

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **May 23, 2024**

DATE OF DECISION: **September 16, 2024**

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

VOTE: Parole is granted to a Long-Term Residential Program after a one-year step down in lower security.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On May 26, 1993, following a jury trial in Bristol Superior Court, Charles Chase was convicted of second-degree murder for the death of Albert Renauld. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.² On that same date, he received a 14 to 15 year sentence for larceny of a motor vehicle, as well as a 3 to 5 year sentence for larceny. Both sentences were ordered to run concurrently with his life sentence. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2007, and after review hearings in 2015, 2020,³ and 2022.⁴ On May 23, 2024, Charles Chase appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Brian Kelly. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Charles Chase's May 23, 2024, hearing.

¹ Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in one year.

² Mr. Chase's co-defendants were Roy Farias and Christoher Gluchacki.

³ On August 1, 2022, pursuant to a reconsideration request submitted by Mr. Chase, the Board reduced the three-year review it prescribed in 2020 to a two-year review. Thus, Mr. Chase's subsequent review hearing took place in 2022.

⁴ Following his December 6, 2022, hearing, in a decision dated January 18, 2023, the Board voted to grant Mr. Chase parole to a Long-Term Residential Program after one year in lower security. On December 5, 2023, following a final rescission hearing, the Board affirmed the rescission of Mr. Chase's January 18, 2023, granting of parole.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On October 22, 1991, Charles Chase (age 24) and Roy Farias traveled to a shopping mall in Dartmouth. Mr. Chase broke into Albert Renauld's tool truck, broke the ignition, and started the engine. According to eyewitnesses, he accelerated quickly with the tires squealing. Mr. Renauld emerged from the mall and began to run toward the driver's side door of his truck. Mr. Chase drove directly toward Mr. Renauld without slowing down. Mr. Renauld was struck in the chest and stomach by the door of the truck, thrown into the air, and left lying on the ground. Mr. Chase did not stop, and the truck sped out of the mall. Mr. Renauld died of head injuries the next day. Mr. Renauld was 31 years old.

While Mr. Chase was being held at the Dartmouth House of Correction on an unrelated matter, he admitted to investigators that he and Mr. Farias had driven to the mall intending to steal a truck and tools. They chose Mr. Renauld's truck because it had toolboxes on its side. Mr. Chase acknowledged that he saw someone running toward him. Mr. Chase hit the man with the left front quarter of the truck, and the man rolled backward. Mr. Chase then accelerated and drove around the corner, where he met with Roy Farias. An acquaintance of Mr. Chase testified that, two days after the incident, he told her that when the truck's owner came running toward him, he "just gunned it" and ran Mr. Renauld down.

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 (if applicable).


DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Chase was back before the Board after a rescission hearing following his 2022 parole decision. Mr. Chase's patterns of behavior have created difficulties for him. The Board notes Mr. Chase's complex mental health issues, as well as his reported traumatic brain injury. The Board finds the reasons for its 2022 parole decision are still relevant, but also that Mr. Chase requires an extensive release plan. Mr. Chase provided the Board with increased insight into his behaviors such that the Board is encouraged that with a step-down period and support upon release, Mr. Chase's release is appropriate. The Board considered testimony of Cynthia Goldberg from the F8 Foundation as a source of support for Mr. Chase. Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Russell Eonas spoke in opposition.

The Board concludes that Charles Chase has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for Long-Term Residential Program (LTRP); Curfew: must be home between 10PM and 6AM at Parole Officers discretion; Electronic Monitoring for 9 months upon release, and then if to continue, at Parole Officer's recommendation to the Board for a change of vote; 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 an updated Mental Health evaluation and follow recommendations; Counseling for adjustment; LTRP; and must sign all release of information forms for service providers.

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.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair


Date