

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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**CHARLES HUGHES**  
**W48493**

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

**DATE OF HEARING:**        **March 27, 2025**

**DATE OF DECISION:**      **August 5, 2025**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley,<sup>1</sup> James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

**VOTE:** Parole is granted on or after 2 weeks from issuance of Decision to a Long-Term Residential Program in the Greater Boston area.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On May 25, 1990, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Charles Hughes was convicted of murder in the second-degree for the death of Derek Twitty. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was found guilty of armed assault with intent to rob, assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, assault and battery with intent to commit murder, and unlawfully carrying a dangerous weapon. Mr. Hughes successfully appealed his convictions.<sup>2</sup> On remand, in January 1997, Mr. Hughes was again found guilty of second-degree murder and the additional charges. He received the following: a life sentence with the possibility of parole on the second-degree murder conviction, a 4-5 year sentence for armed assault with intent to rob, a 3-5 year sentence for assault and battery by means of a deadly weapon, a 10-15 year sentence for armed assault with intent to murder, and a 4-5 year sentence for unlawfully carrying a firearm on his person. All sentences were ordered to be served concurrently. Mr. Hughes unsuccessfully appealed his convictions a second time.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Chair Hurley participated in the vote on this matter prior to her departure from the Board.

<sup>2</sup> *Commonwealth v. Hudson and another*, 36 Mass. App. Ct. 1115 (1995).

<sup>3</sup> *Commonwealth v. Hughes*, 49 Mass. App. Ct. 1118 (2000).

Mr. Hughes appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 27, 2025. He was not represented by an attorney. This was Mr. Hughes' first appearance before the Board since his final revocation hearing in 2024. Mr. Hughes was previously released on parole in 2005, 2009, 2016, 2019, and 2022, but was revoked each time due to parole violations. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Charles Hughes' March 27, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On April 22, 1989, Charles Hughes (age 24) and Mac Hudson shot and killed 18-year-old Derek Twitty during an attempted robbery in Roxbury. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Hudson also shot another person during the robbery, but he survived the shooting. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Hudson pretended that they wanted to buy drugs from the victims. Instead, they drew guns and demanded both drugs and money. When the victims attempted to flee, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Hudson chased them down and shot them. Eyewitnesses were able to identify the two perpetrators in photo line-ups. About a month after the murder, Mr. Hughes was arrested outside his girlfriend's house for disorderly conduct. He was charged with the murder of Mr. Twitty, as well as the crimes associated with the armed robbery.

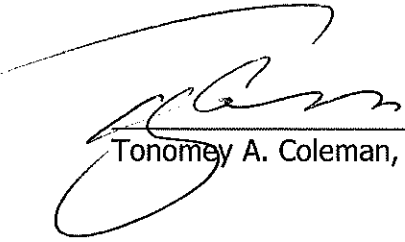
**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and 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. Hughes is 60-years-old and, since having first been granted parole in 2004, has been reincarcerated six times. As with his earlier returns to custody, his parole was revoked due to Mr. Hughes' ongoing struggles with substance use disorder. This latest revocation occurred after numerous attempts were made by parole staff to interrupt Mr. Hughes' substance use. The Board notes that, despite his numerous parole revocations, Mr. Hughes has never been charged with a crime while on parole, nor has he absconded from supervision at any time. The conditions set by the Board, which include a Long-Term Residential Program, a recovery coach, and mental health counseling, will assist Mr. Hughes in maintaining sustained remission from his substance use disorder. The Board considered the testimony of Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Charles Hughes has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Long-Term Residential Program in the Greater Boston area; Waive work for program/SSI; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; 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); No contact with victim(s)' family; Must have weekly

mental health counseling and substance use counseling; AA at least 3 times per week; Mandatory - recovery coach and engagement with Access Mental Health.

*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.*



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Tonomay A. Coleman, Acting Chair

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Date

8/5/25