

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 10, 2022**

DATE OF DECISION: **July 6, 2022**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa¹

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 25, 1990, after a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Charles Hughes was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Derek Twitty and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same day, he was found guilty of additional criminal offenses. Mr. Hughes successfully appealed his convictions.² On remand, 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.³

Mr. Hughes appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 10, 2022. He was represented by Attorney Kim Jones. This was Mr. Hughes' first appearance before the Board since his final revocation hearing in 2021. Mr. Hughes was previously released on parole in 2005, 2009, 2016, 2019 but was revoked due to parole violations. The entire video recording of Mr. Hughes March 10, 2022, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

¹ Chair Moroney was recused.

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

³ *Commonwealth v. Hughes*, 49 Mass. App. Ct. 1118 (2000).

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.⁴

Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP). This is Mr. Hughes' fourth return to custody. He was in the community for approximately two years with an overall positive adjustment until a relapse in 2021 resulting in a return to custody. Mr. Hughes will benefit from the structure and support from a LTRP to further address his substance abuse issues since his return to custody. He has maintained a positive adjustment and remained program-compliant.

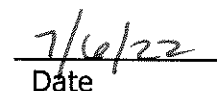
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society."

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Hughes 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. Hughes' risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Hughes' case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Hughes is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) – must complete; Waive work for two weeks or program; Curfew 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 Mac Hudson; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health evaluation – adhere to plan; Must participate in individual and/or group substance abuse counseling; AA/NA at least 3 times/week; Mandatory - sponsor.

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


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel


Date

⁴ Three Board Members voted to grant parole, and two Board Members voted to deny parole.