

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence Reidy
Secretary

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



Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

CHARLES THOMPSON

W60002

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 31, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: December 1, 2022

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On January 30, 1996, following a jury trial in Norfolk Superior Court, Charles Thompson was convicted of Unarmed Robbery and Assault and Battery. For the conviction of Unarmed Robbery, Mr. Thompson was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole under the Habitual Offender statute. The Assault and Battery conviction was placed on file.

Mr. Thompson appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 31, 2022. He was represented by Attorney Russell Sobelman. After his initial hearing in 2009, Mr. Thompson was released on parole, but that permit was revoked in 2010. Mr. Thompson was denied parole after a revocation review hearing in 2011. Following his 2014 review hearing, Mr. Thompson was granted parole again, but parole was provisionally rescinded. On June 23, 2016, the Board voted to release Mr. Thompson for a third time. He was returned to custody in October 2017. His parole revocation was affirmed in January 2018. Mr. Thompson was paroled again in August 2019 but was returned to custody in November 2019. His revocation was affirmed on July 12, 2021. The entire video recording of Mr. Thompson's March 31, 2022, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

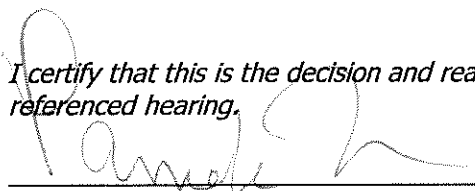
DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.

The Board is of the opinion that Charles Thompson has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. In October 1994, Mr. Thompson robbed the victim along with his co-defendant. He has been given the opportunity of parole on 3 occasions, all of which resulted in returns to custody. [Mr. Thompson] was on parole a mere 90 days when he was arrested by Boston PD in 2019 for drug and motor vehicle offenses, of which he was ultimately sentenced to 18 months in the [House of Correction]. Since his return to custody he has completed the [Correctional Recovery Academy] and received one d[isciplinary] report for insolence to staff. The Board remains concerned about his criminal thinking, evidenced by his 3 parole failures. The Board encourages him to reengage in mental health and explore and understand precipitates to parole violations.

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. Thompson'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. Thompson's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Thompson's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Thompson is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Thompson's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Thompson to continue working toward his full rehabilitation.

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



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

12/1/22
Date