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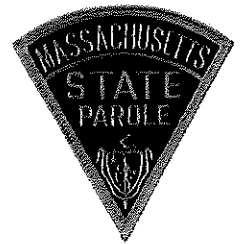
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

CHARLES THOMPSON
W60002

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 20, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: October 28, 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 on or after 2 weeks from the issuance of the Decision to a Long-Term Residential Program (LTRP).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: 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. After his initial hearing in 2009, Mr. Thompson was released on parole, but his parole was revoked in 2010. Mr. Thompson was denied parole after a revocation review hearing in 2011. Following his 2014 review hearing, Mr. Thompson was again granted parole, but his parole was provisionally rescinded.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, and his parole revocation was affirmed in January 2018. Mr. Thompson was paroled in August 2019, but he was returned to custody in November 2019. His revocation was affirmed on July 12, 2021. He appeared before the Board in 2022 for a review hearing, but parole was denied. On June 20, 2024, Mr. Thompson appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Russell Sobelman. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of the hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On October 9, 1994, at approximately 1:00 a.m., Charles Thompson (age 33) attacked and robbed a 37-year-old doctor in the hallway of his Brookline apartment building. The doctor had dropped his wife at the apartment building and planned to park and walk back with his 13-year-old daughter. The doctor grew concerned, however, when

he noticed a man exit a gray car and quickly follow his wife into the apartment building. The doctor told his daughter to wait in the car while he went to look after his wife (who had already hurried into the apartment and shut the door). As the doctor entered the hallway of the apartment complex, Mr. Thompson attacked him, punching him repeatedly in the face and breaking his glasses. Mr. Thompson also threatened to kill him. After stealing the doctor's wallet and watch, Mr. Thompson fled. The doctor called the police. He and his wife gave a description of the assailant, and the doctor's daughter described the car he fled in.

Shortly thereafter, Boston Municipal Housing officers questioned two men parked in a car which matched the reported description and was discovered to be stolen. The driver, Joseph Williams, was found to have the doctor's credit cards in his pocket, and the passenger, Charles Thompson, was wearing the doctor's watch. The doctor's wallet was found on the floor of the car. The doctor and his wife were brought to the scene of the arrest, where they identified Mr. Thompson as the assailant.

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).

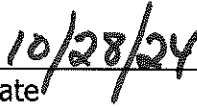
DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Thompson presented for a review hearing after being returned to custody for the third time. He has been back in custody since November 2019. Mr. Thompson has struggled with addiction and mental health issues. He was forthcoming and insightful about his need areas. He has been re-engaged in treatment and presented as motivated and stabilized. Mr. Thompson has completed numerous programs since his return to custody. He is engaged in mental health counseling, which he finds beneficial; however, he requested longer sessions if released to the community. Mr. Thompson does have long periods of sobriety, including 24 years when initially released. He has been sober since October 2019, and has a better understanding of the precipitants to relapse. Mr. Thompson presented as ready and invested to continue treatment via a residential program with added supports that were specifically recommended at his hearing. Conditions of release will support more intensive mental health and substance abuse treatment and monitoring. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Charles Thompson has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Long-Term Residential Treatment Program - complete; Restrict work for program or SSI; Curfew must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM; Electronic monitoring for 90 days; Must take prescribed medication; 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; No contact

with victim(s); A/A or N/A at least 3 times per week; Must have mental health counseling for depression; Mandatory mentor/recovery coach at either Marcus Garvey or Credible Messenger or similar organization.

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