

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Thomas A. Turco, III
Secretary

Telephone # (508) 650-4500

Facsimile # (508) 650-4599

Gloriann Moroney
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

CHRISTOPHER RAMBERT

W39842

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 18, 2020

DATE OF DECISION: March 31, 2021

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. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in three years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On July 19, 1983, after a jury trial, Christopher Rambert was convicted of three of his indictments charging aggravated rape, armed burglary, and armed robbery. He was sentenced to serve life in prison for the armed robbery and armed burglary, and a term of 30-40 years for the aggravated rape. On July 20, 1983, Mr. Rambert pleaded guilty to twelve of the remaining indictments and was issued sentences of varying lengths, including multiple terms of life imprisonment, all to run concurrently with his 30 to 40 year prison term for aggravated rape. The two remaining indictments were placed on file.

On May 12, 1987, Mr. Rambert attacked another inmate with a pair of scissors and, on February 17, 1988, he was convicted of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Mr. Rambert received a 3 year from and after sentence. On October 2, 1989, Mr. Rambert escaped from the Massachusetts Treatment Center. A month later, he was arrested in California and extradited back to Massachusetts. On May 30, 1990, Mr. Rambert was convicted of escape and received a 3 to 5 year from and after sentence.

In 1981, 14-year-old Christopher Rambert went on a violent and sexually assaultive crime spree in the Back Bay area of Boston. On March 5, 1981, he indecently assaulted and robbed a female guest of the Sheraton Boston Hotel, at gunpoint, in the stall of the ladies' room. He was able to escape without being apprehended. Later that year, on three separate occasions between early August and early September, Mr. Rambert executed late-night rapes in a one-block area of Newbury Street in Boston. On all three occasions, Mr. Rambert entered the victim's apartment through a rear window, armed with a knife. Once inside, he would awaken the sleeping victim at knifepoint and threaten to kill her, if she refused to submit to rape. Mr. Rambert then proceeded to rape and terrorize the victim and steal her money. Before leaving the premises, Mr. Rambert would disconnect the telephone receiver and hide it.

In October 1981, Mr. Rambert continued his crime spree, entering a guest's room through a window at the Copley Square Hotel. Armed with a gun, he told the guest that he would shoot him if he failed to give him money. After the guest handed over approximately \$120, Mr. Rambert fled. He remained at large until December 10, 1981, when he was arrested for trespassing at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Rambert told the security officer that he would have shot him if he had a gun.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 18, 2020

Christopher Rambert, now 54 years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on June 18, 2020, for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Matthew J. Koes. Mr. Rambert was denied parole after an initial hearing in 2001 and postponed his hearing in 2006. He was denied parole after both his 2008 and 2013 review hearings and postponed his review hearing in 2017. In his opening statement at this hearing, Mr. Rambert apologized to his victims and their families, and to the community, who were put in fear by his actions. When the Board discussed how the "Miller" factors may have contributed to his crime spree, Mr. Rambert stated that he started smoking marijuana at age 11 and started using cocaine at age 12. Mr. Rambert admitted to committing armed robberies and burglaries with his friends to feed his daily drug use. He told the Board that he did not feel pressured or influenced by his peers to commit the rapes and, in fact, thought his friends would disapprove of his crimes. Mr. Rambert said that his crimes were a reaction to the racism he experienced as a child, as well as a desire for vengeance. He described his feeling of power and control in committing the rapes, stating that it was "more addictive than cocaine."

The Board noted that Mr. Rambert has accrued over 100 disciplinary reports, three escapes, and multiple transfers to different facilities. Mr. Rambert attributed his poor institutional record to his immaturity, stating that he lacked both social and life skills, and explained that he was an angry young man when he was first incarcerated. Mr. Rambert's last disciplinary report was in 2017. He attributed his improved conduct to his treatment programs, his maturity, and his Muslim faith. Mr. Rambert mentioned Victim Empathy, Restorative Justice, Corrections Recovery Academy and General Maintenance Program as particularly helpful.

When the Board questioned him about mental health treatment and his diagnosis of narcissistic-antisocial personality disorder, Mr. Rambert responded that he was traumatized by racism he experienced as a child and developed an unhealthy coping mechanism of committing crimes that targeted white people. Mr. Rambert explained that he had not completed Sex

Offenders Treatment Program (SOTP) because he was civilly committed for a period of time and, therefore, not eligible for the program. He stated that he last applied to the Sex Offenders Treatment Program in 2017, but his application was denied because he was deemed a security risk due to escapes on his record.

Dr. Fabian Saleh, M.D., D.F.A.P.A., an expert witness, and Lauren Honigman, M.S.W., L.I.C.S., JD, a re-entry witness, testified at the hearing. Dr. Saleh submitted a forensic psychological evaluation. Ms. Honigman submitted a detailed re-entry assessment. Mr. Rambert's brother, as well as his mentor, testified in support of parole. A victim's impact statement was read at the hearing by a victim, who stated that she was not in opposition to parole. Boston Police Commissioner William Gross submitted a letter in opposition to parole.

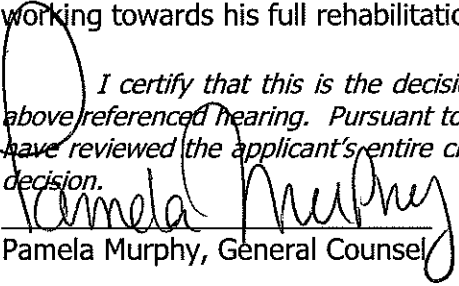
III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Rambert has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Rambert committed a series of sexual assaults, breaking and entering, armed robberies, and armed assaults over a seven-month period in 1981 at the age of 14. Mr. Rambert has incurred over one hundred disciplinary infractions, the last of which was received in 2017. Since his last hearing, he has completed numerous programs to include the SOTP pre-treatment program and attends religious services. Mr. Rambert, due to the nature of his offenses, is encouraged to pursue a transfer to the Massachusetts Treatment Center to complete SOTP. In rendering their decision, the Board did take into consideration the re-entry assessment prepared by Lauren Honigman, MSW, LicSW, JD, and the forensic evaluation conducted by Dr. Saleh. Both reports provided the Board with a greater understanding as to his social history, criminal history, substance use, medical and mental health and his risk/needs as it relates to reintegration. Both individuals presented testimony at his hearing. Although the evaluations provided relevant and concerning information, the Board believes Mr. Rambert needs to continue to explore how he was capable in acting in such a heinous manner.

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. The Board recognizes that Mr. Rambert was 14 years old at the time of the governing offenses and took into consideration Mr. Rambert's lack of maturity, vulnerability to outside pressures and negative influences, recklessness and impulsivity, limited control over his own environment and the greater capacity for juveniles to change as they grow older. In addition, the Board considered the testimony and forensic evaluation of Dr. Saleh. The Board also has considered whether risk reduction could effectively minimize Mr. Rambert's recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Rambert's case, the Board is of the opinion that Christopher Rambert's release is not compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Rambert, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

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

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.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

3/31/2021
Date