



*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*

**Charles D. Baker**  
*Governor*

**Karyn Polito**  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**Terrance Reidy**  
*Secretary*

**Gloriann Moroney**  
*Chair*

**Kevin Keefe**  
*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
DOUGLAS COOMBS  
W45327**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing  
**DATE OF HEARING:** August 12, 2021  
**DATE OF DECISION:** December 6, 2021

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

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On January 22, 1982, in Suffolk Superior Court, Douglas Coombs pleaded guilty to rape for which he received a life sentence with the possibility of parole. This sentence was to take effect from and after the 12-year sentence Coombs was already serving for rape.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Coombs appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on August 12, 2021 and was represented by Northeastern University Law students Leila Selchaif and Alexander Reganata. This was Mr. Coombs's fourth appearance before the Board, having been denied in 2000, 2005, and 2013. Mr. Coombs postponed his 2017 hearing. The entire video recording of Mr. Coombs's August 12, 2021, 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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>2</sup> Upon District Attorney clearance reserve to a Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) or Keenan House for a minimum of six months and he will be provided group and individual counseling via Counseling and Psycho-Therapy Centers, Inc. Mr.

<sup>1</sup> At the time he committed the governing offense, Coombs was on work release from his 12-year sentence and was residing at a Boston Pre-Release transitional housing program.  
<sup>2</sup> Four Board Members voted to grant parole, and two Board Members voted to deny parole.

Coombs has served over 40 years for the governing offense he committed when he was 24 years old. Mr. Coombs is currently 64 years old. He has completed the Sex Offender Treatment Program and is active in Sex Offender Maintenance. He has not incurred any major disciplinary reports in over 30 years. He has also been sober for over 30 years and is active in NA/AA.

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. Coombs'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. Coombs's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Coombs's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Coombs is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) or Keenan House for six months; Waive work for two weeks or disability; 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 the victim's family; No contact with the victim(s); Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition; Must participate in sex offender group counseling at The Counseling and Psycho-Therapy Center, Inc.; Must attend AA/NA at least 3 times/week; Mandatory – adhere to "Sex A" conditions.

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

  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
Date