



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ERIC BROOKS
W41987

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 23, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: August 24, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On July 22, 1985, Eric Brooks broke into the Brighton apartment of a 21-year-old woman and raped her at knifepoint. When the victim left to seek medical treatment, Mr. Brooks returned to her home to steal her belongings. On July 31, 1985, in Brighton, Mr. Brooks entered the apartment of a 23-year-old woman and raped her at knifepoint, cutting her several times. On December 17, 1985, in Suffolk Superior Court, Mr. Brooks pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated rape and received two consecutive sentences of life imprisonment. He later pleaded guilty to another count of aggravated rape was sentenced to another, concurrent, sentence of life imprisonment. He also received concurrent sentences for additional convictions of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, breaking and entering, armed assault, and armed robbery.

Mr. Brooks appeared before the Board for a review hearing on May 23, 2023. He was represented by Boston College Law School student attorneys under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrmann. The entire video recording of Mr. Brooks' May 23, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into 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.

Parole reserve to interstate compact, North Carolina, on/after 7/28/2023. Not before [District Attorney] clearance. This was Mr. Brooks' third appearance before the Board. He has been incarcerated for 37 years. Mr. Brooks accepted the recommendations from the Parole Board and increased his investment in rehabilitation. After completing SOTP [Sex Offender Treatment Program] in 2006, Mr. Brooks became a cadre worker at Bridgewater State Hospital for approximately 7 years. He has since returned to the Treatment Center as a mentor in the graduate support program. Mr. Brooks has a support system. He appears to have addressed his own trauma history that contributed to his offenses. Mr. Brooks is now 63 [years old]. He will continue treatment in the community. The Board considered the testimony from Mr. Brooks' sister. The Board also considered the testimony from ADA Montez Hayward from Suffolk County [District Attorney's] Office.

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

Special Conditions: Parole reserve to interstate compact, North Carolina, on/after 7/28/2023; Not before [District Attorney] clearance; Waive work for 2 weeks; Curfew at Parole Officer's discretion; Electronic monitoring; 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; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow recommendations; Must have mental health counseling for trauma history, sex offender counseling; Mandatory SEX-A Conditions.

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

08/24/2023

Date