

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*



**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Chair*

**Kevin Keefe**  
*Executive Director*

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**GLEN BOVAT**

**W44984**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:** **March 12, 2019**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **January 8, 2020**

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

**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 five years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On June 7, 1988, in the Hampden Superior Court, Glen Bovat pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated rape committed against separate victims on June 14, 1987 and November 7, 1987, and was sentenced to two life sentences with the possibility of parole to be served concurrently. In addition to the rapes, Mr. Bovat also pleaded guilty to three indictments for kidnapping, two indictments for assault and battery, and single indictments for assault to rape, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a dangerous weapon, and malicious damage to property. These other charges were either filed or received sentences that have expired. Mr. Bovat also has a consecutive 18 month sentence, which was imposed in Federal Court on September 19, 1988, for fashioning a metal cylinder that was eventually used in bombing a car dealership. He is requesting parole to this sentence.

The first incident occurred on June 14, 1987. The 23-year-old victim had been at a club in Three Rivers, Massachusetts with some friends and needed a ride home. While seeking a friend for a ride home, she noticed Mr. Bovat, whom she had previously met through friends, and asked him for a ride home. Mr. Bovat agreed. Mr. Bovat made sexual advances on the victim, which she refused. Mr. Bovat forced the victim to perform sexual acts, multiple times, while threatening to bash her head in with a rock if she failed to comply. The victim subsequently reported the incident to the Wilbraham police, and Mr. Bovat was arrested on charges of kidnapping, rape, attempted rape, assault with intent to commit rape, and assault and battery. Mr. Bovat's bail was set at \$25,000. He posted bail and was released into the community on bail conditions at the time of the second incident, approximately five months later on November 7, 1987.

On the night of the second incident, Mr. Bovat encountered two women at a bar in Bondsville around closing time. Mr. Bovat approached the driver and her friend, asking for a ride to Three Rivers. The driver knew Mr. Bovat and agreed to give him a ride. She drove with her friend in the front passenger seat and Mr. Bovat in the back. Mr. Bovat asked the driver to pull over so he could relieve himself. After she did so, he exited the car and returned with a large rock in hand. He then opened the passenger side door, tore out the ceiling light, smashed the rear view mirror, and attempted to remove the key from the ignition, while the passenger struggled to prevent him from doing so. During the struggle, Mr. Bovat broke off the key in the ignition, and thereafter began aggressively groping the women. He ordered the front passenger to the back of the vehicle and raped the driver. All three exited the vehicle and Mr. Bovat held the women both by the belt loops at the back of their pants and led them up a hill, along the side of the road. Mr. Bovat claimed they were going to a vacant house. A van drove by slowly, and the women began screaming for help. When the van slowed to a stop, Mr. Bovat took off running into the woods. The driver of the van took the women to the police station where they reported the incident.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON MARCH 12, 2019**

Glen Bovat, now 58-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 12, 2019, and was not represented by counsel. He had been denied parole in 2002 and 2007, and Mr. Bovat postponed his 2012 hearing. After his 2014 review hearing, his parole was denied with a review in five years. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Bovat expressed remorse for his crimes and apologized to the victims. He spoke of his institutional adjustment, summarizing the programming and treatment in which he has participated, and how it has benefitted him. Mr. Bovat indicated that he was disappointed by the Board's decision to deny him parole in 2014. When the Board inquired as to the reasons for his disappointment, Mr. Bovat stated that he was surprised by "the rationale" used. Mr. Bovat indicated that he believed the rationale was that he had a "normal childhood" and that he believed one of the victims "wanted to date [him]," which Mr. Bovat explained wasn't true and "just wanted to get it [the rape] over with and leave."

In describing the governing offenses, Mr. Bovat described the first incident of June 1987. He told the Board that on the night of the incident, the victim, whom he previously knew, asked him for a ride home from a club in Three Rivers. They stopped at his friend's house, and then he took a "detour" through an access road to the railroad tracks and parked. He and the victim drank beer and talked for approximately a half hour. He stated that he was

kissing her, but the victim "felt she had to run away." When asked why the victim ran away, Mr. Bovat stated that he didn't know and that they "were kissing for a little bit." When pressed, Mr. Bovat stated that he "put [his] hand on her breast" and she pushed him away, and when he put his hand on her breast again, she ran away. Mr. Bovat chased the victim, who slipped and fell at one point. He grabbed her, dragged her, threatened her, and then brought her back to the car. He stated that he then "forced his penis in her mouth" several times. He eventually stopped, the two left, and he brought her home.

At the time of the second incident in November 1987, Mr. Bovat had been released on bail for the first rape in June. In the second incident, the two victims were giving him a ride. Mr. Bovat leaned over and kissed one of the victims on the cheek. The victim rejected his advances. He then got out of the car to "figure out what [he] was going to do." He stated that at the time, he was angry because (earlier) he had learned his boss was going to fire his brother-in-law from the company for which they both worked. When asked why he wasn't thinking about his pending rape case, Mr. Bovat stated that "[he] didn't care about anything" and that "his whole world was falling apart." He then returned and raped one of the victims. Afterwards, he asked the victims to give him a ride to his brother's house. When asked what he thought about what he had done, Mr. Bovat stated, "I could have killed them...I was out of control."

When Board Members questioned him as to the sentences he received, Mr. Bovat explained that when he learned another inmate had received a 10 year sentence for raping his daughter, he (Mr. Bovat) wondered why he received a life sentence for "[his] penis touching her vagina." When pressed, Mr. Bovat acknowledged that he sexually assaulted the second victim forcefully. He told the Board, however, that he believed the other inmate's crime was worse than his. The Board expressed serious concerns about Mr. Bovat minimizing his culpability.

The Board inquired as to Mr. Bovat's disciplinary report in 2000 for having escape paraphernalia, which included a hand written picture of a truck backed up into a loading dock with a large box inside the truck, a hand written list of items and typed instructions on "how to build a new identity," and credit card fraud. Mr. Bovat told the Board that the list regarded items needed to go camping, and that the instructions came from a "catalogue of books" that came in the mail. Mr. Bovat also had a disciplinary report in 2016 for possession of pornographic material. Mr. Bovat claimed that another inmate, whose locker was full, asked him to hold onto some photo albums. When his locker was searched, nude photos were found in the albums. In addition, Board Members inquired about a 1988 incident, where Mr. Bovat fashioned a device used in the bombing of a car dealership. Mr. Bovat told the Board that a friend had asked him to build a reservoir for the hydraulic system on his truck. He found a piece of metal that could be used as a cylinder, but claimed that he did not know it would be used in the bombing. Mr. Bovat stated that he only learned of the bombing from the federal agent that interviewed him.

Currently Mr. Bovat is participating in the Sex Offender Treatment Maintenance Program (SOTP), received his welding certificate, and works in unit maintenance. He has also completed programming, such as Sex Offender Treatment, Alternatives to Violence, and Alcoholics Anonymous 12 Steps. Mr. Bovat explained that in Sex Offender Treatment, he learned how to deal with his anger, communication, and other issues. When asked if he has control of the

issues he dealt with in treatment, Mr. Bovat responded that he thinks he has "pretty good" control of it.

The Board considered the oral testimony and letter of Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Howard Safford in opposition to parole.

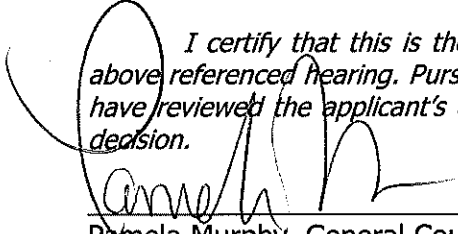
### **III. DECISION**

Although he has successfully completed the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP), Mr. Bovat has yet to demonstrate a level of rehabilitative progress that would be compatible with the welfare of society. He has a concerning criminal history of violence against women. Since his last hearing, he has incurred a disciplinary infraction for possession of pornography.

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

Mr. Bovat's next appearance before the Board will take place in five years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Bovat 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. 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.*

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

1/8/2020  
Date