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Josh Wall
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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

GLENN MATTSON

W35408

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: August 21, 2012

DATE OF DECISION: August 30, 2013

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, Charlene Bonner, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, institutional record, the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by a unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in five years.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE¹

Glenn Mattson appeared before the Parole Board on August 21, 2012 for a review hearing. This was his fifth appearance before the Board. In its prior decisions denying parole, the Board expressed concern about the fact that he was a repeat sex offender whose participation in sex offender treatment was sporadic, was a threat to reoffend, and had failed to address the causative factors underlying his offenses.

On February 25, 1977, after trial, Mr. Mattson was sentenced to serve life in prison for assault with intent to rape in Plymouth Superior Court. He was also sentenced to serve seven to ten years for assault with intent to murder and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. At the time of sentencing, he was serving a seven to ten year prison term after a jury found him guilty for a 1974 assault with intent to rape. A few months after he had been sentenced to life in prison, he pleaded guilty to rape and was sentenced to serve a concurrent term of 15 to 20 years in prison for another 1974 sexual assault. Mr. Mattson's life sentence

¹ The names of all sexual assault victims are withheld. G.L. c. 265, § 24C.

conviction was upheld by the Supreme Judicial Court in 1979. *Commonwealth v. Mattson*, 377 Mass. 638 (1979).

A. May 11, 1974 Sexual Assault

On May 11, 1974, Victim #1 and a friend (Friend #1) went to a club in Bridgewater. Victim #1, who was 18 years old, and Friend #1 arrived around 10:00. Mr. Mattson worked at the club. Prior to this incident, neither Victim #1 nor Friend #1 knew Mr. Mattson.

At approximately 12:15, Victim #1, Friend #1, and Mr. Mattson drove from the Bridgewater club to Brockton to pick up another Friend (Friend #2) to bring back to the club. Friend #2, who did not know Mattson, decided that she did not want to go to the Bridgewater club, and Mr. Mattson drove her home instead. During this ride, Mattson made no advances on Victim #1.

While driving back to the club in Bridgewater, Friend #1 decided that she did not want to go back inside. Again, Mr. Mattson made no advances on Victim #1 during the car ride. Mr. Mattson told Friend #1 that he would drive Victim #1 home, stating that he also lived in Brockton. Victim #1 and Mr. Mattson went back into the club, had a drink, and danced until the club closed. At approximately 1:15 Mr. Mattson, Victim #1, and a male friend of Mr. Mattson left the club. Mr. Mattson drove the male friend to Stoughton and, during the ride, made no advances on Victim #1.

Victim #1 told Mr. Mattson that she wanted to go home and provided directions on how to get there. When they approached Brockton, instead of driving to her home, Mr. Mattson took her to a local park. He asked her, "Have you ever been raped?" When she responded, "no," Mr. Mattson said that she was about to be raped. He stopped the car, choked her, and raped her. After he was through, she managed to push him away and escaped. Victim #1 suffered internal bleeding as a result of the assault.

B. September 11, 1974 Sexual Assault

On September 11, 1974, Victim #2, 16 years old, met Mr. Mattson and a male friend of his at a store in Brockton at around 11:00. She did not know him or his friend. While his friend was inside the store buying beer, Mr. Mattson spoke to Victim #2 and asked her if she wanted to go get a drink and dance. She agreed.

Victim #2 drove with Mr. Mattson and his friend to an establishment in Easton where they had one drink. They stayed there for approximately 20 minutes and returned to the car with Mr. Mattson and Victim #2 seated in the back. After driving around, Victim #2 eventually told Mr. Mattson that it was late and she needed to get home.

As they were approaching Victim #2's home, Victim #2 told Mr. Mattson's friend not to pull up to the front of her house, so he pulled the car over before arriving in front of her house. At that time, Mr. Mattson got out of the car with Victim #2 and told his friend to come back in ten minutes. As the friend pulled away, Mr. Mattson put his arm around Victim #2, and said, "Let's go over here." Victim #2 said, "No." He then grabbed Victim #2 around her throat, dragged her ten to 15 feet off the side of the road and behind a bush. He forced her to the ground and straddled her while she was yelling and trying to force him off of her. He choked Victim #2 until she was unconscious and, while she was unconscious, he forced her blouse up and her belt off. He then noticed "blue lights" coming his way and got up and ran into the woods. When police found Victim #2, she was crying, fearful for her life, scraped, and bleeding. Officers later found Mr. Mattson walking along the road and, when questioned, he

gave a false name. Officers took Mr. Mattson to the hospital where Victim #2 identified him as the person who attacked her. Officers then arrested Mr. Mattson on a charge of assault and battery with the intent to rape. Mr. Mattson was then held in custody at the Plymouth House of Correction and later released on bail.

C. August 24, 1975 Sexual Assault (Governing Offense)

In the afternoon of August 24, 1975, Victim #3, 16 years old, and her boyfriend were at Mr. Mattson's apartment. Mr. Mattson and the boyfriend, who were friends, had made arrangements to exchange his waterbed for the boyfriend's standard bed. Victim #3 did not know Mr. Mattson before this date.

Mr. Mattson and the boyfriend left the apartment together to obtain a hose in order to empty the waterbed. Mr. Mattson claimed that he forgot an access key and returned to the apartment a few moments later. When he arrived, he was alone with Victim #3.

He began beating her with a set of Chinese fighting sticks, hitting her in the head several times. He knocked her down, jumped on her, partly ripped off her clothes, and started to choke her. While he was assaulting her, Mr. Mattson stated to her several times "I want you" and "I'm going to kill you." After about 10 minutes, she ceased struggling and briefly passed out.

When she regained consciousness, Mr. Mattson disingenuously asked her what had happened and whether she had fallen and hit her head on the coffee table. Mr. Mattson also suggested that she take a shower, which she refused to do, instead stating that she needed to go to the hospital. Her boyfriend came back shortly thereafter and took Victim #3 to the hospital because she had three open cuts on her head from which she was bleeding and required stitches. She also suffered from cuts and bruises on her neck and back. Victim #3 thought she was going to die while Mr. Mattson was assaulting her.

As Victim #3 and the boyfriend were leaving for the hospital, Mr. Mattson asked her what she would tell the doctor. She responded that she would tell the doctor that she fell and hit her head on the coffee table. Mr. Mattson followed them to the hospital where he was arrested by police after she reported that he had beat her on the head and then tried to rape and kill her.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON AUGUST 21, 2012

Glenn Mattson committed three violent sexual assaults in 1974 and 1975. He refused sex offender treatment for decades and did not enter treatment until 2002. He completed the treatment in 2006. He obtained his GED in prison and received a degree from Boston University in 1985. He has completed several trade programs. He currently participates in AA and NA, and was enrolled in a Violence Reduction Program. He is a cadre worker at Bridgewater State Hospital where he is a plumber. He has 16 disciplinary reports, with four related to substance abuse (Valium, marijuana, Quaaludes, and home brew) and four related to threatening or assaultive behavior. He has four returns to higher custody due to disciplinary incidents.

At this hearing, Mr. Mattson for the first time admitted to all the facts of the three sexual assaults. His lies and refusals to accept responsibility for victimizing three young women have been a major obstacle in previous parole hearings. The 2007 Parole Decision stated the following: "Mr. Mattson's testimony was not forthcoming surrounding the details of his multiple sex offenses; he reported to parole staff that there was only one victim although there were three. Upon further questioning by the Board, he apologized for the lies he had told to hospital

staff, police and attorneys. He further reported more victims to one Board Member after assuring another Member these were his only three. It appears to the Board that his behavior has not changed." At this hearing, Mr. Mattson was unable to explain why he had falsely denied aspects of the crimes, even after completing sex offender treatment.

Mr. Mattson said that, if paroled, he "would stay away from drugs and alcohol, use my support network, and use group therapy." He said that he grew up with "anger and resentment" because of the way he was treated by his siblings. He said things "came out in anger, rage, and violence; drugs and alcohol calmed me." He said that sex offender treatment "taught me to talk about feelings; growing up I only had one feeling – anger; now I understand I have resentment, frustration, and insecurity." A Board member noted that in sex offender treatment, Mr. Mattson identified that it would be a risky situation for him to be near women and children in certain public places.

A Board Member asked Mr. Mattson if he had committed any other sex offenses. He said, "I was arrested in a Halifax in 1965 for a gang rape; it was bound over as an assault and battery, and then dismissed; at the Treatment Center they said it wasn't rape because the woman was 25, alcohol was involved, and she invited us over." Mr. Mattson did not mention an incident from September 21, 1974 in which a fourth victim identified Mr. Mattson as the man who attacked her in her driveway late at night when she returned home from work. Even though the attacker covered her mouth, the victim was able to scream, which evidently caused him to flee. It is unclear why the case was not indicted after a probable cause finding bound the case over to Superior Court.

A Board member asked Mr. Mattson about the sequence of arrests for the three sex crimes. He confirmed what the records suggest: he was arrested for the first sexual assault and posted bail; he was arrested for the second sexual assault and posted bail; he was arrested for the third offense, obtained a bail reduction, and posted bail before trial. Mr. Mattson did not recall how he and his lawyer avoided bail revocations and received a bail reduction with three open violent sexual assault cases. He also had no explanation for why the oversight of the criminal justice system and the conditions of bail did not deter him from sexually assaulting more women.

Plymouth Assistant District Attorney Karen O'Sullivan testified in opposition to parole. No one spoke in support of parole.

III. DECISION

Glenn Mattson committed three violent sexual assaults on young women. He seeks parole from a life sentence for assault with intent to rape. He refused to participate in sex offender treatment until 2002. During that time, he refused to be truthful about his criminal behavior or his criminal thinking. He finally entered treatment which he completed in 2006. After completing the treatment, however, he testified poorly at his 2007 parole hearing as he was still "not forthcoming" and misleading. The Board concluded in 2007 that sex offender treatment had not had the desired outcome. In this hearing, Mr. Mattson was for the first time in 37 years candid about his motivation and conduct in committing the three sexual assaults. Mr. Mattson showed progress, but after decades of lies and denial, he needs a much longer record of pro-social thinking and behavior in order to establish rehabilitation.

The standard for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such an 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." Applying that appropriately high standard, the Parole Board concludes that Mr.

Mattson is not currently suitable for parole. The review will be in five years during which Mr. Mattson should continue to address issues related to anger, violence, sexual violence, dishonesty, and criminal thinking. He should consider why, after years of sex offender treatment, he was not truthful about the extent of his sexual violence against women.

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 each member of the Board has reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.


Janis DiLoreto Noble, General Counsel

8/30/13
Date