



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**HERMAN HALL  
W42454**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** December 8, 2015

**DATE OF DECISION:** February 25, 2016

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, 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 in five years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On May 21, 1986, in Essex Superior Court, Herman Hall pled guilty to aggravated rape, unarmed robbery, and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. Two concurrent sentences of life in prison, with the possibility of parole, were imposed on Mr. Hall for his convictions of aggravated rape and unarmed robbery. Mr. Hall was also sentenced to a concurrent term of not more than 10 years, and not less than 9 years, in prison for his conviction of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. This sentence was set to run concurrently with the life sentence.

On May 22, 1986, in Essex Superior Court, Mr. Hall pled guilty to rape, assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, and assault with intent to rape. Mr. Hall was sentenced to a term of not more than 20 years, and not less than 18 years, in prison for his conviction of rape. Two separate sentences of not more than 10 years, and not less than 9 years, in prison were imposed on Mr. Hall for his conviction of assault with intent to rape and

assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. All sentences imposed on Mr. Hall as a result of these convictions were ordered to run concurrently with his life sentences.

On January 8, 1987, in Essex Superior Court, Mr. Hall pled guilty to aggravated rape, armed robbery, and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. Two separate sentences of life in prison, with the possibility of parole, were imposed on Mr. Hall for his convictions of aggravated rape and armed robbery. These sentences were to run concurrently with each other and his other life sentences. Mr. Hall's conviction for assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon was placed on file.

In the spring of 1985, Mr. Hall committed a series of sexual assaults against four women. Mr. Hall raped three women on separate occasions and sexually assaulted a fourth woman with the intent to rape her. He also robbed two of the rape victims. Mr. Hall used a knife during the commission of each of these sexual assaults and was remarkably violent in his language and threats. One of Mr. Hall's victims was 14-years-old.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON DECEMBER 8, 2015**

Herman Hall, now age 53, appeared before the Parole Board on December 8, 2015 for a review hearing. This was his fourth appearance before the Board. Mr. Hall's initial hearing took place on January 3, 2001, and resulted in parole being denied. Subsequently, he appeared before the Board for review hearings on December 13, 2005, and December 14, 2010, both of which were also denied.

In Mr. Hall's opening statement to the Board, he apologized to his victims. During the course of the hearing, Mr. Hall spoke about his crimes. According to Mr. Hall, his girlfriend's unfaithfulness caused him to develop anger towards women. Mr. Hall cited this anger, as well as the sexual abuse he suffered during childhood, as factors that influenced his behavior. He also referenced his addiction to alcohol as playing a major role in his offenses. According to Mr. Hall, at the time he committed these crimes, alcohol had distorted his thought process and affected his decision making ability. During his incarceration, Mr. Hall completed sex offender treatment programs and participated in substance abuse counseling. The Board notes, however, that Mr. Hall has not completed a sex offender maintenance program since January 2012. Mr. Hall has not participated in any programs to address his substance abuse issues since 2008.

The Board did not receive any testimony from witnesses expressing support for Mr. Hall's petition for parole. The Board considered the testimony of a representative of the Essex County District Attorney's Office, who expressed opposition to Mr. Hall's release.

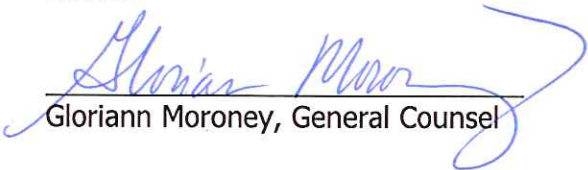
## **III. DECISION**

The Board is of the opinion that Herman Hall has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes a longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to Mr. Hall's rehabilitation.

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. Hall'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 whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Hall's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Hall's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Herman Hall is not yet rehabilitated, and therefore does not merit parole at this time.

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

  
Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

2/25/16  
Date