



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

HERMAN HALL
W42454

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: September 17, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: March 3, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is granted to a skilled nursing facility (preferred Mission Care) or medical facility which can meet his needs 60 days from date of decision, but not before DA clearance.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On May 21, 1986, in Essex Superior Court, Herman Hall pleaded 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 his life sentence.

On May 22, 1986, in Essex Superior Court, Mr. Hall pleaded 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 resulting from these convictions were ordered to run concurrently with his life sentences.

¹ Board Member Bonner was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote, Chair Coleman was present at hearing but did not participate in vote.

On January 8, 1987, in Essex Superior Court, Mr. Hall pleaded 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. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2001 and review hearings in 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020.

On September 9, 2025, Mr. Hall appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Debra Beard-Bader. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Hall's September 9, 2025, hearing.

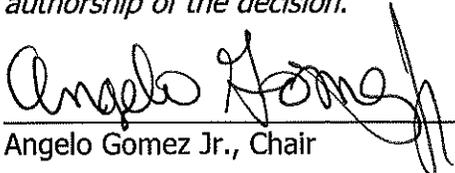
STATEMENT OF THE CASE: In the spring of 1985, Mr. Hall committed a series of sexual assaults against four women. Mr. Hall raped three women on separate occasions and sexually assaulted a fourth woman with the intent to rape her. He also robbed two of the rape victims. Mr. Hall used a knife during the 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.

APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Hall has been incarcerated for over 40 years. This is his sixth appearance before the Board. He has completed Sex Offender Treatment Program and has been involved in the maintenance program. He has been disciplinary report free since 2000. The Board considered the evaluation and testimony of Dr. Jeffrey Long regarding Mr. Hall's diminished mental capacity and his significant cognitive decline since the last hearing. Dr. Long's testimony reflects that Mr. Hall will require skilled care for persons with memory disabilities. The Board heard testimony in support of parole from friends of Mr. Hall. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Herman Hall has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for program; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or PO's discretion; Electronic monitoring at PO's discretion; 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; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Residential program: Skilled nursing home or suitable medical facility; Mandatory: Waive Sex A conditions due to dementia

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.



Angelo Gomez Jr., Chair

3-3-26
Date