

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

**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*



**Maura T. Healey**  
*Governor*

**Kimberley Driscoll**  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**Terrence M. Reidy**  
*Secretary*

*Telephone: (508)-650-4500*

*Facsimile: (508)-650-4599*

**Tina M. Hurley**  
*Chair*

**Lian Hogan**  
*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**MICHAEL PERSON**  
**W55885**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** February 6, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** May 20, 2025

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz<sup>1</sup>

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in 3 years from the date of the hearing.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On March 5, 1991, in Hampden Superior Court, Michael Person pleaded guilty to 2 counts of aggravated rape. He received a life sentence on each count, to run concurrently with one another. He also pleaded guilty to 1 count of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (a knife), 2 counts of armed assault with intent to murder, 1 count of kidnapping, and 1 count of mayhem. He was sentenced to 9 to 10 years on each of the non-rape convictions, to run concurrently with his life sentences. His life sentences were ordered to run from and after the 5 to 7 year sentence he was (then) serving on 4 counts of unarmed robbery, unrelated to the rape and assault convictions. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2008, and after a review hearing in 2016.<sup>2</sup> On February 6, 2025, Michael Person appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Michael Person's February 6, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** Late in the evening of August 22, 1990, 23-year-old Michael Person brutally attacked and repeatedly raped a 20-year-old woman, whom he did not know. Mr. Person had followed the woman down a street in Springfield, as she was walking home

<sup>1</sup> Board Member Ortiz was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Person postponed his review hearings in 2013 and 2021.

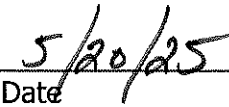
alone. He ran up behind her and punched her in the face. He then put his hands around her neck, while he held a knife to her throat. When the victim screamed, Mr. Person bit her on the face and threatened her. He then dragged her to a deserted field behind a nearby school, where he repeatedly raped her at knifepoint. He ripped a gold necklace from around her neck and put it in his pocket. As the victim struggled to free herself during the rape, Mr. Person punched her, cut her face and body with the knife, and repeatedly threatened to kill her. Eventually, the victim managed to escape and run to the street, where she was found by police officers. The victim suffered several large cuts to the right side of her face, a large cut on her chin, many small cuts and abrasions on her face, a swollen and bruised left eye, a cut on her stomach, cuts on her upper left arm, and numerous bite-marks on her left arm and wrist. She identified Mr. Person from a photo array, and he was taken into custody several days after the attack. The victim's gold necklace and a black-handled knife were in Mr. Person's possession when he was arrested.

**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 (if applicable).

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** This was Mr. Person's third hearing before the Board. Mr. Person has yet to complete SOTP per the recommendation of the Board. Mr. Person discussed his history of engagement in SOTP and why he has struggled. He did state he intended to re-enroll. The Board continues to have concerns regarding Mr. Person's rehabilitation efforts and encourages him to engage in SOTP. Mr. Person is not currently engaged in DOC programming. However, he has maintained employment. Mr. Person did not present with a parole plan. The Board suggests Mr. Person work with counsel in order to develop a comprehensive re-entry plan and that he also complete SOTP. The Board considered written submissions from the Hampden County District Attorney in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Person has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

*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

  
Date