

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



**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Lieutenant Governor*

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*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**  
**RALPH HAMM**

**W32301**

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

**DATE OF HEARING:**       **September 17, 2019**

**DATE OF DECISION:**      **March 26, 2020**

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

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On June 27, 1969, after a bench trial in Essex Superior Court, Ralph Hamm was found guilty of two counts of armed robbery, two counts of mayhem, and one count each of assault with intent to rape and assault with intent to kill upon two victims. He received two concurrent life sentences and several sentences ordered to run consecutive to the life sentences. The consecutive sentences were later reduced by the Appellate Division of the Superior Court.

Mr. Hamm, now 69-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on September 17, 2019 and was represented by Attorney Deborah Beard-Bader. Mr. Hamm was denied parole after his hearings in 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014. The entire video recording of Mr. Hamm's September 17, 2019 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

**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 decision that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Upon DA (District Attorney) clearance, reserve to Connecticut through Interstate Compact. Mr. Hamm has served 50 years for the governing offense. He has demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would not make his release incompatible with the welfare of society. He has spent the past few years gaining further insight as to his criminal conduct and causative factors.

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.

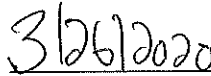
In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Hamm's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Hamm's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Hamm's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Hamm is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

**Special Conditions:** Upon DA (District Attorney) clearance, reserve to Connecticut through Interstate Compact; Waive work; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; 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; Must have mental health evaluation and adhere to plan; Must have substance abuse evaluation and adhere to plan; Adhere to Sex A conditions.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** The above decision is an abbreviated administrative decision issued in an effort to render an expedited resolution in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Hamm, through counsel, has waived his right to a full administrative decision.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.*

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date