



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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**AMENDED
RECORD OF DECISION**

IN THE MATTER OF

THOMAS KING

W34620

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: October 13, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: January 17, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On June 7, 1974, after a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Thomas King was convicted of armed robbery, rape, and breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony in the attack of a 32-year-old female.¹ He was sentenced to three concurrent sentences of life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was convicted of assault by means of a dangerous weapon and unnatural acts, for which he received consecutive sentences of 9 to 10 years and 3 to 5 years in state prison, respectively.

Mr. King appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on October 13, 2022. He was represented by student attorneys from Northeastern University School of Law. Mr. King was granted parole after his initial hearing in 1990 but was returned to custody in 1996. Mr. King was denied parole after his review hearings in 1996, 2002, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. The entire video recording of Mr. King's October 13, 2022, 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 vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.

¹ Co-defendants Steven Nicholson and Gary Mitchell were also given second-degree life sentences for rape, armed robbery, and armed assault.

Reserve to Brooke House for a minimum of 90 days after DA clearance. On November 23, 1973, 18-year-old Mr. King and his two codefendants raped the 32-year-old victim. He has served forty-nine years for the offense that he committed just as he turned 18 years old. The Board notes he had a challenging upbringing and was involved in the criminal justice system from a young age. He accepts responsibility for the crime and is currently enrolled in the maintenance phase of SOTP. He has engaged in one-on-one counseling from which he seems to have benefited. He has an impressive record of institutional rehabilitative and vocational training, to include Violence Reduction, CRA, and AA/NA. He presented a strong parole plan and has good community and family support.

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. King'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. King's risk of recidivism. Applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. King's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Thomas King is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to CRJ Brooke House for a minimum of 90 days; Waive work for program; Curfew – Must be at home between 10pm and 6am; 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; No contact with victim; No contact with victim's family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow recommendations; Counseling for adjustment/transition; Sex A conditions.

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

/s/ Pamela Murphy p.p. Courtney E. Doherty
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

1/17/23
Date