



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

HERMAN HALL

W42454

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing
DATE OF HEARING: December 14, 2010
DATE OF DECISION: January 17, 2012

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Cesar Archilla, John Bocon, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Denied with a review in 5 years. The decision is unanimous.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Herman Hall committed three separate rapes, two of them aggravated. He received concurrent life sentences for the two aggravated rapes. He robbed two of the rape victims, and he received life sentences for those two robberies; the two robbery sentences are being served concurrently with the two aggravated rape sentences. He also attacked a fourth woman and for that incident was convicted of assault with intent to rape. Hall committed the sexual assaults in the spring of 1985. In each of the crimes Hall used a knife to abduct a stranger. He was remarkably violent in his language and threats. One of the victims was 14 years old.

One victim described the crime as follows. "The next thing I knew a man had his left hand on my face, and his right hand was pushing a knife in my side. 'Don't scream or I'll kill you,' he said. He dragged me into the alley next to a house. He kept asking me if I loved my family and if I ever wanted to see them again. He threatened me with words I have never heard before. He said he would kill me in ways I couldn't even imagine. He told me he would

stick that knife into my vagina and twist it around until I was dead. He kept describing how slow and painful it would be. Over and over he would repeat those words. He never stopped talking." As the victim resisted, "he kept hitting me."

Hall had parole hearings in 2001 and 2005; parole was denied both times. Hall's statements connected to his 2001 parole hearing create more problems for him. The Parole Board decision in 2001 described Hall at the hearing as having "no real credibility as to motives, facts, or factors relating to the crime." Hall claimed at that hearing that he remembered one of the crimes but had no memory of the other three assaults. In 2005, Hall finally admitted that he did remember all the sexual assaults. The 2005 decision records that Hall changed his explanation of why he committed one of the attacks.

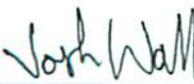
II. PAROLE HEARING ON DECEMBER 14, 2010

Hall gave a more candid account of his crimes and his other behavior than he did at his 2001 hearing. He has been in sex offender treatment in recent years; that treatment has apparently convinced him to be more honest with himself and the Parole Board. At this hearing he did not repeat his false claim that he did not remember three of the attacks. Hall admitted that in 1985 he was a violent and angry person who used drugs and alcohol to excess. Speaking of the night he attacked three women, he stated that "I could have easily killed someone that night because I was so out of control." When asked about other victims of his aggressive sexual conduct, he admitted that there were about 100 women "I took liberties with at clubs and parties." Hall said, "I was spoiled. I was alcoholic. Drinking, drugging, using sex, that's how I made myself feel better."

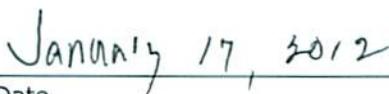
III. DECISION

Herman Hall is serving four concurrent life sentences. None of the four goals of sentencing – punishment, deterrence, incapacitation or rehabilitation – is achieved yet. At his first parole hearing in 2001, Hall showed no signs of rehabilitation; his first 15 years of incarceration were of no value. At this hearing, Hall made strides in candor, remorse, and insight. Given his horrendous crimes, Hall needs years of sex offender treatment, controlled and positive behavior, honesty, substance abuse programming, and anger management programming. He has many things to work on in order to eliminate his criminal thinking and antisocial behavior. Herman Hall is a violent serial rapist; he cannot be paroled without years of candor, rehabilitative programming, and reformed behavior. Hall's sex offender treatment and his more candid presentation to the Parole Board give reason to believe that his rehabilitation is underway. At this point, however, the Parole Board concludes that Herman Hall does not meet either standard of parole; he is likely to re-offend and his release is incompatible with the welfare of society.

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



Josh Wall, Chairman



Date