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*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
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**PAROLE BOARD**  
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Josh Wall  
Chairman

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**CHRISTOPHER RAMBERT  
W39842**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing  
**DATE OF HEARING:** January 24, 2013  
**DATE OF DECISION:** November 12, 2013

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Cesar Archilla, Charlene Bonner, Sheila Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall.

**DECISION OF BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, institutional record, the testimony of the inmate at the hearing, the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by a unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in five years.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

In 1981, 14-year-old Christopher Rambert went on a violent and sexually assaultive crime spree in the Back Bay area of Boston.

On March 5, 1981, he indecently assaulted and robbed a female guest of the Sheraton Boston Hotel at gunpoint in the stall of a ladies room. He was able to escape without being apprehended. Later that year, on three separate occasions between early August and early September, he boldly executed three late-night escapades of rape and plunder in a one-block area of Newbury Street in Boston. On all three occasions, Rambert entered the victim's apartment through a rear window late at night, armed with a knife. Once inside the apartments, Rambert would awaken the sleeping victim at knifepoint and threaten to kill her if she refused to submit to rape. He then proceeded to rape and terrorize the victims and steal their money. Before leaving the premises, Rambert would disconnect the telephone receiver and hide it.

In October 1981, Rambert continued his crime spree, entering a guest's room through a window at the Copley Square Hotel. He had a gun, and told the guest that he would shoot him if he failed to give Rambert his money. After the guest handed over approximately \$120, Rambert fled.

He remained at large until December 10, 1981, when he was arrested for trespassing at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. At the time of his arrest, Rambert told the security officer that if he had had a gun, he would have shot him.

The juvenile court issued complaints charging Rambert with numerous felonies, including aggravated rape, burglary, and assault with intent to murder. Following a lengthy transfer hearing, the juvenile complaints were dismissed, and the matter was transferred to the Superior Court, where 17 indictments issued against Rambert, who would be tried as an adult. The 17 indictments included assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, armed breaking and entering in a dwelling house, aggravated rape, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, entering without breaking in the nighttime, indecent assault and battery, burglary, and armed assault in a dwelling house.

On July 19, 1983, after a jury trial, Rambert was convicted of three of the indictments charging aggravated rape, burglary, and robbery. He was sentenced to serve life in prison for the robbery and burglary, and a term of 30-40 years for the aggravated rape. On July 20, 1983, Rambert pleaded guilty to twelve of the remaining indictments and was issued sentences of varying lengths, including multiple terms of life imprisonment, all to run concurrently with the defendant's 30 to 40 year prison term for aggravated rape. The two remaining indictments were placed on file. Rambert filed a motion for a new trial in 2000, which was denied, and his subsequent appeals to the Massachusetts Appeals Court and Supreme Judicial Court were unsuccessful. *Commonwealth v. Rambert*, 71 Mass. App. Ct. 1123 (2008).

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON JANUARY 24, 2013**

Christopher Rambert, now age 46, is serving ten life sentences concurrently due to a series of sexual assaults he committed in 1981. In total, he sexually assaulted five female victims in five separate incidents, one of which occurred while he was on escape from the Department of Youth Services. After a jury convicted him at one trial, he pleaded guilty to crimes connected to the remaining incidents. He seeks parole from the ten life sentences to serve a from and after sentence of three to five years. Rambert has three escapes from custody and a terrible disciplinary record at the Department of Correction, including 80 disciplinary reports in the first seven years of incarceration.

Rambert acknowledged that "initially my prison conduct was horrible; I had real problems with authority and talking back; I was immature and I needed treatment for anger, resentment, impulsivity." He has several placements in disciplinary segregation, including for participating in a riot twice, assaulting an inmate with a pair of scissors, and assaulting staff by spitting and kicking. His recent disciplinary reports are serious. In 2008 he wrote an inappropriate suggestive note to a female staff member. In 2009, the DOC recovered a razor blade and a 15-foot rope hidden in his cell. In 2009, he caused a major incident by refusing to cuff up and return to his cell. He was returned to maximum security at Souza-Baranowski in May 2009 due to his dangerous behavior. He transferred to MCI-Concord in October 2011.

Nation of Islam activities are a significant part of Rambert's current prison activity. He has completed Able Minds, Alternatives to Violence (two levels). He has completed three phases of sex offender treatment but has not entered Core Treatment. He said that he benefited from sex offender treatment in the 1990s because it caused him to think about his violence and anger, and he started to disclose some of his criminal behavior and "make some progress." It was during this time that he "admitted that I always hated white people."

Rambert is evaluated as a sexually dangerous person by the Community Access Board that reviews sex offenders at the DOC. He has not completed sex offender treatment, but testified that, "I don't consider myself a sexually dangerous person today." The 2005 review by the Community Access Board noted that Rambert had made no progress in several treatment areas, and he has refused to participate in the Community Access Board evaluation since 2008. Rambert also declined participation in the Correctional Recovery Academy in 2011. By way of explanation, he said at this hearing that "I do substance abuse maintenance as part of spiritual work." He reported that he used drugs regularly in prison until 1990 when he benefited from a treatment program at the Treatment Center that helped him deal with addiction. He said he last used marijuana in 1997.

Board Members questioned Rambert about his three escapes. These events signal extraordinary risk. His first escape was from DYS and he committed a rape while on escape. In a second escape from DYS, Rambert took two officers hostage with a gun during a transport. Rambert had made arrangements for someone to leave a gun in the transport vehicle and for masked armed associates to meet him on the transportation route. Rambert testified that, "I asked friends to help me; I knew one of the officers; he had been kind to me; he told me later he was scared to death; he thought I was going to kill him." Rambert also escaped from the Treatment Center. He explained that "it was a joint escape with another guy, but I was clearly the more experienced guy, it was pretty much my plan." The other inmate fell to his death while trying to escape. While on escape, Rambert reported that he stole a car, possessed a firearm, and used drugs.

Rambert's brother, aunt, and a friend spoke in support of parole.

### **III. DECISION**

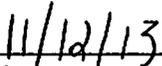
Christopher Rambert is serving ten life sentences for crimes associated with four separate sexual assaults against four separate women in 1981. For many years, he continued with substance abuse and violence in prison. At this hearing, he showed improvement in tone, demeanor, and candor. However, he has not completed sex offender treatment and has limited rehabilitative program participation. Given this history of sexual violence and lack of reform, the Parole Board concludes that Rambert is not rehabilitated. Through his conduct, Rambert has established that he is a violent and sexually dangerous person who would pose an extraordinary risk to the community.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that, "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." Applying this appropriately high standard, the Board denies parole because Christopher Rambert is not rehabilitated. The review will be in five years.

*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.*

  
Caitlin Casey, Chief of Staff

  
Date