



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety



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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

STEVEN MATTOS

W60443

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: April 26, 2011

DATE OF DECISION: April 23, 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: Parole is denied with a review in three years. The decision is unanimous.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Steven Mattos intentionally drove his truck at and struck Timothy Lamere, age 21, at 12:45 a.m. in New Bedford. Mr. Lamere died from his injuries. Mattos had spent the evening drinking beer at several different locations, and he and a friend left a bar in search of cocaine. As Mattos drove in search of cocaine, he ended up in a road rage dispute with a group that included the victim. Fueled by alcohol and anger, Matos returned to find the group. He found them walking near a gas station on Ashley Boulevard near Tallman Street. Mattos maneuvered his truck around the gas pumps and several parked cars, accelerated the truck's speed, and intentionally drove into the victim. The victim was standing on the sidewalk with his hands up; he posed no threat to Mattos. The collision sent the victim flying approximately 50 feet across Ashley Boulevard.

Mattos made some admissions to a friend, who reported those statements to the New Bedford police. He pleaded guilty to second degree murder on April 12, 1996. This is his first parole hearing.

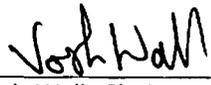
Mattos has prior arrests for possession of marijuana and malicious destruction of property; these cases did not result in criminal convictions. He was arrested in 1978 in Georgia for drug possession; the disposition is unknown. He was arrested in 1990 in New Hampshire for assault; Mattos says that arrest was for DUI, and that he refused the breathalyzer which resulted in license suspension for 90 days.

II. DECISION

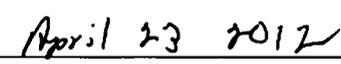
Steven Mattos committed a murder as retaliation for a minor dispute with a stranger. The act of intentionally driving his truck at and striking a man who stood with his hands up shows considerable uncontrolled rage. Mattos' behavior is not easily explained. He was raised in a middle class household with both parents, he graduated from high school, he had a good employment history, he had numerous friends and activities, and he did not have a serious criminal conviction. At the time of the murder, he was 39. Mattos has participated in numerous rehabilitation programs while incarcerated. His disciplinary record is above average and does not show continued violence. He has made strides towards rehabilitation. His performance at the parole hearing, however, showed that his progress has not reached the point where he can live in the community under parole supervision. First, he minimizes his actions and his role in the events that led up to the murder; he assigns much of the responsibility for the evening's activities to his companions and fails to fully understand the several irresponsible decisions that led him to the murder. Second, he does not reveal much insight into the reason for his uncontrolled rage and the strategies for reducing his potential for anger and violence. Third, he does not adequately recognize the damaging role that his use of drugs and alcohol have played in his life; he even minimizes the amount and the effect of alcohol consumption on the night of the murder.

In summary, based on a review of the inmate's history, the Parole Board expected that at the hearing Mattos would display more insight, more understanding, and more rehabilitation than he did. He has advantages of background, education, employment, and family support that many inmates do not have; it is up to the inmate to use those assets to move further towards rehabilitation. He needs more understanding of (a) his actions on the night of the murder, (b) his substance abuse issues, and (c) his anger. Because he has these issues remaining for rehabilitation, the Parole Board cannot conclude that he would not re-offend if released on parole and that his release would be compatible with the welfare of society. Accordingly, parole is denied with a review in three years.

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



Josh Wall, Chairman



Date