

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ALEXIS MOLINA

W82456

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: December 2, 2021

DATE OF DECISION: September 1, 2022

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

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 not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in three years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On September 24, 2003, in Bristol Superior Court, Alexis Molina pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of his mother Catherine Molina Velazquez. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he also pleaded guilty to armed robbery with a knife, larceny of a motor vehicle, and larceny. Those charges were filed.

On November 25, 2002, New Bedford police responded to a report of a foul odor coming from a second-floor apartment. Upon investigation, officers found the body of 39-year-old Catherine Molina Velazquez in a bedroom closet, wrapped in a blanket. The medical examiner determined the cause of death to be a knife wound to the neck. Her son, 22-year-old Alexis Molina, was questioned multiple times by New Bedford police. The investigation revealed several discrepancies in Mr. Molina’s various stories. On December 9, 2002, Mr. Molina was arrested for the murder of his mother. After he was booked, Mr. Molina confessed to the

murder. He also confessed to taking his mother's car and jewelry, as well as approximately \$6,000 and drugs.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON DECEMBER 2, 2021¹

Alexis Molina, now 42-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on December 2, 2021. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Molina was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2017. Mr. Molina reported a long history of substance abuse following his first exposure to marijuana at age 11. Mr. Molina stated that he was under the influence of multiple substances at the time of his mother's murder. However, he claims that he has been sober since 2005. Mr. Molina believes that his motive for the murder was "mostly fear... and a lot of it was [his] drug abuse." Upon Board Member questioning as to why he believes that he was (previously) denied parole, Mr. Molina responded that he had "problems with accepting certain things," and that his "anger was still there." Mr. Molina stated that he has since made progress with these issues.

Board Members discussed Mr. Molina's poor initial institutional adjustment. Although he incurred only three disciplinary reports since his last hearing, Mr. Molina struggled with repeat disciplinary infractions early in his incarceration. He told the Board that he is focused on improving his adjustment and is "tired of being the bad guy." Additionally, Mr. Molina attempted suicide 4 times since the start of his incarceration, which he explained were brought on by "thinking about [his] actions." He was previously medicated for anxiety and depression. Mr. Molina has engaged in programming efforts to include Spectrum Cognitive Skills and Violence Reduction. He is employed and has received a certificate in Culinary Arts. The Board noted that Mr. Molina has renounced his affiliation with a security threat group.

The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from the Bristol County District Attorney's Office.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Alexis Molina has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Molina murdered his mother on or about November 25, 2002. Although Mr. Molina takes responsibility for the crime, he lacks insight as to how he was able to commit such a horrific offense. At the time of the hearing, Mr. Molina stated that he was approved for transfer to a facility that would offer more programming. The Board is of the opinion that more mental health and substance abuse treatment would be beneficial. Mr. Molina disclosed that his mother was a high-ranking member of [a Security Threat Group], who subjected him to a long period of significant abuse. He spoke about the trauma, and the Board encourages him to continue investing in his positive progress that he has begun to make.

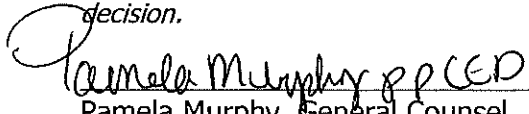
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the 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. Molina's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational,

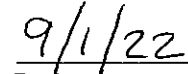
¹ The entire video recording of Mr. Molina's December 2, 2021 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

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. Molina's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Molina's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Alexis Molina is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Molina's next appearance before the Board will take place in three years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Molina to continue working toward his full rehabilitation.

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.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel


Date