



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**CARLOS DOMINGUEZ**  
**W87650**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** **Review**

**DATE OF HEARING:** **January 11, 2024**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **April 10, 2024**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse

**VOTE:** Parole granted to ICE detainer on/after two weeks from date of decision.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On May 8, 2006, in Suffolk County Superior Court, a jury convicted Carlos Dominguez of second-degree murder in the death of 61-year-old Sau Sun. Mr. Dominguez was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Dominguez filed motions for new trial, but the denials were affirmed.

Mr. Dominguez appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on January 11, 2024. He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Dominguez was denied parole after his December 11, 2018 initial parole hearing. The entire video recording of Mr. Dominguez's December 19, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated, by reference, to the Board's decision.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On January 2, 2004, 18-year-old Carlos Dominguez stabbed 61-year-old Sau Sun, following a brief confrontation in Chelsea. In the early morning hours of January 2, 2004, Sau Sun was walking around his Chelsea neighborhood, looking for discarded electronics equipment, when he encountered Carlos Dominguez. Mr. Dominguez punched Mr. Sun in the face, stabbed him in the shoulder, and then fled the scene. After Mr. Sun unsuccessfully attempted to get help, he collapsed on the street and died from a single stab wound that punctured his artery and lung.

Meanwhile, Mr. Dominguez arrived at his girlfriend's apartment, where he cleaned, and later disposed of, the murder weapon. In an interview with the police two days later, Mr. Dominguez

denied any involvement in the crime, stating that he had been in bed at the time of the murder. Later, he asserted that he had been chased by gang members carrying sticks, and that he stabbed one of them in the shoulder. Finally, Mr. Dominguez admitted to police that he killed Mr. Sun. After a search of Mr. Dominguez's apartment, police located the clothing he had worn the night of the crime, hidden behind a refrigerator, and covered in Mr. Sun's blood.

**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an incarcerated individual's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the incarcerated individual's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** The Board notes that Mr. Dominguez demonstrated improved insight and candor during his hearing. He expressed remorse when speaking about the victim. During his incarceration, Mr. Dominguez invested in faith-based programming and education. Since his last hearing, he earned his High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) and continued with faith-based programs. During his incarceration, he also completed programs to address empathy, anger management, and cognitive behavioral change. This offense was his first and only arrest of any kind and he has been D (disciplinary) report-free since 2010. He has demonstrated a good work ethic by working in the kitchen since 2012. He scores low on the LS/CMI assessment. The Board considered factors related to Mr. Dominguez's age at the time of the offense. Mr. Dominguez expressed his desire to return to El Salvador, where he has family support, and provided a well thought out reentry plan. The Board considered opposition testimony from Assistant District Attorney Heywood.

The Board concludes, by unanimous decision, that Carlos Dominguez has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Approve home plan before release if not deported; Release to ICE detainer; Waive work for 2 weeks; 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(s)' family; Must have substance abuse evaluation and must comply with recommendations; Counseling for adjustment.

*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.*

  
Tina M. Hurley, Chair

  
Date