

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 LOPEZ

W81382

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **January 12, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **February 9, 2023**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 3, 1999, in Barnstable Superior Court, Carlos Lopez pleaded guilty to two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of Jose Vasquez and Wilfredo Hernandez and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. The concurrent life sentences were ordered to run consecutive to a sentence of 4 ½ to 5 years for larceny from a person.

Mr. Lopez appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on January 12, 2023. He was represented by student attorneys from Harvard University Law School. Mr. Lopez was denied parole at his initial hearing in 2018. The entire video recording of Mr. Lopez's January 12, 2023, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

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.

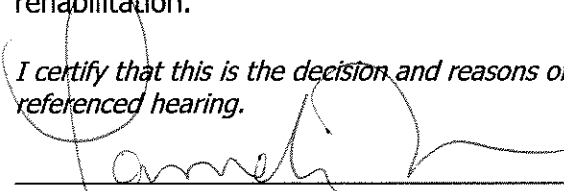
The Board is of the opinion that Carlos Lopez has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On May 10, 1998, 22-year-old Mr. Lopez murdered two men in a Yarmouth hotel room. Mr. Lopez should pursue renunciation as he is listed as a validated member of a security threat group. The Board

recognizes he denied membership, in which case the Board reminds him that he can also submit a grievance to challenge his status. The Board would like to see this issue resolved through either avenue. Mr. Lopez has had a challenging institutional adjustment which has improved in recent years. The Board encourages Mr. Lopez to continue to pursue his GED. He should also engage in programming to address anger management. The Board finds that Mr. Lopez would benefit from counseling or programming to address his own trauma history and victimization.


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. Lopez's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, 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. Lopez's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Lopez's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Carlos Lopez is not yet rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

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

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



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel



Date