



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760



Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4599

Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Daniel Nakamoto
Acting Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

CESAR VELEZ
W89764

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **August 15, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **November 20, 2023**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina M. Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On April 26, 2007, in Suffolk Superior Court, Cesar Velez pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of Amelia Gomez and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On March 25, 2003, at approximately 4:50 p.m., Amelia Gomez was in the parking lot of the Archdale Housing Development in Roslindale, when she was confronted by her former boyfriend, Cesar Velez (age 38). After an argument ensued, Mr. Velez retrieved a kitchen knife from the trunk of his car, grabbed Ms. Gomez by the throat, and stabbed her to death. Mr. Velez attempted to flee, but he was blocked by a group of young men. Mr. Velez then swung his knife at the men, before returning to the body of Ms. Gomez and stabbing himself. After Mr. Velez fell to the ground, a bystander kicked the knife out of his hand. Mr. Velez was taken to the hospital and, subsequently, charged with the murder of Ms. Gomez.

PAROLE HEARING: Cesar Velez appeared before the Board on August 15, 2023, for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Shannon Lopez. Mr. Velez was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2018. The entire video recording of Mr. Velez's August 15, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into the Board's Decision.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: 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.

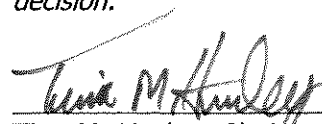
After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is granted on or after two weeks from the date of the decision to an ICE detainer.

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Velez'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. Velez's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Velez's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Velez is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

The Board notes that subject has gained insight into domestic abuse and acknowledged his role as an abuser. Subject was able to articulate his behavior and pattern of abuse. Subject appears to have benefitted from programming. Subject had prior hospitalization at Bridgewater State Hospital due to psychotic depressive disorder and received treatment. Subject reports that he has maintained his mental health since the 2003 hospitalization and is not an open mental health case at the Department of Correction. Subject presents as remorseful. He scores low risk on the LS/CMI risk assessment tool. He has completed 13 programs since he was last before the Board, including Violence Reduction, Domestic Violence programming, and Restorative Justice. Subject has no disciplinary reports. Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood of the Suffolk District Attorney's Office, and members of the victim's family, spoke in opposition. Subject's brothers spoke in support.

Special Conditions: Approve home plans before release; Release to ICE detainer; Waive work for two weeks if released by ICE officials; Curfew - must be at home between 10PM & 6AM or at Parole Officer's discretion; Electronic monitoring at Parole Officer's discretion; 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 mental health evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan.

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

11/20/2023

Date