

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

CHARLES ROSARIO
W87543

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 10, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: August 18, 2022

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On April 6, 2006, in Worcester Superior Court, Charles Rosario pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 22-year-old Nathan Watkins. On April 20, 2006, he was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Rosario appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on May 10, 2022. He was represented by student attorneys from Boston College Law School. This was Mr. Rosario's second appearance before the Board, having been denied at his initial hearing in 2019. The entire video recording of Mr. Rosario's May 10, 2022, 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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.¹

Reserve to LTRP but not before a twelve-month step-down. On May 27, 2004, Mr. Rosario, then 21 years old, shot and killed 22-year-old Nathan Watkins. Mr. Rosario was before the Board on a reconsideration one year earlier based on his extraordinary investment in his rehabilitation and adjustment. Since the hearing, Mr. Rosario has continued his involvement in Restorative Justice, college courses, and has become a mentor in the BRAVE Unit, mentoring young

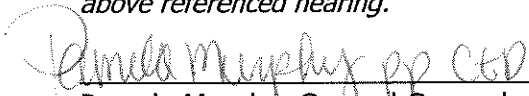
¹ One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

inmates, and continues with AA/NA meetings. He has a strong support system to include the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, as well as family and community.

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. Rosario'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. Rosario's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Rosario's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Rosario is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to LTRP – must complete; Waive work for two weeks; Curfew at PO's discretion; Curfew – must be at home between 10pm and 6am; ELMO – electronic monitoring; 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; Contact with Richie Gonzalez at PO's discretion; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health evaluation and follow any recommendations; Must have substance abuse evaluation and follow any recommendations; Counseling for adjustment; AA/NA 3 times/week; Mandatory – follow recommendations of treatment providers.

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



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel



Date