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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

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Acting Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

COREY RAMOS
W82756

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **November 9, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **January 4, 2024**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner,¹ Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse

VOTE: Parole is granted to CRJ or LTRP after 6 months in lower security.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On January 29, 2003, following a jury trial in Hampden Superior Court, Corey Ramos was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of 51-year-old Theodore Brown. Mr. Ramos was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. This sentence was ordered to be served from and after his two year sentence for carrying a dangerous weapon. On that same date, Mr. Ramos was also convicted of possession of a dangerous weapon (knife) on school grounds. He received a one year sentence to be served concurrently with his two year House of Correction sentence. Parole was denied following his initial hearing in 2019.

On November 9, 2023, Mr. Ramos appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by counsel. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Mr. Ramos' November 9, 2023 hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 5, 2001, 17-year-old Springfield High School student Corey Ramos was wearing a hood at school in violation of a rule prohibiting headwear. Mr. Ramos ignored repeated requests by Springfield High School outreach counselor Theodore Brown to remove the hood and, eventually, looked at Mr. Brown and said, "If you get in my face again, I'm going to bust you up." When Mr. Brown continued to advise Mr. Ramos to

¹ Dr. Bonner was not present at the hearing, but she reviewed the record in its entirety prior to vote.

remove his hood, Mr. Ramos struck him. The parties then engaged in a physical altercation during which Mr. Ramos stabbed Mr. Brown eight times, causing his death.

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 inmate’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 inmate’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 inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate’s testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board.


In the context of an inmate convicted of first or second-degree murder, who was a juvenile at the time the offense was committed, the Board takes into consideration the attributes of youth that distinguish juvenile homicide offenders from similarly situated adult offenders. Consideration of these factors ensures that the parole candidate, who was a juvenile at the time they committed murder, has a meaningful opportunity to obtain release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation. *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 466 Mass. 655, 674 (2013). See also *Commonwealth v. Okoro*, 471 Mass. 51 (2015). The factors considered by the Board include a juvenile’s “lack of maturity and an underdeveloped sense of responsibility, leading to recklessness, impulsivity, and heedless risk-taking; vulnerability to negative influences and outside pressures, including from their family and peers; limited control over their own environment; lack of the ability to extricate themselves from horrific, crime-producing settings; and unique capacity to change as they grow older.” *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 471 Mass. 12, 30 (2015). The Board also recognizes the inmate’s right to be represented by counsel during their appearance before the Board. *Id.* at 20-24.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Ramos is now 39-years-old. He was 17-years-old at the time of the crime. The Board considered the *Diatchenko-Miller* factors and noted Mr. Ramos’ maturity in thought during his incarceration. The Board reviewed the psychosocial evaluation of Kimberly Mortimer, LMHC, and her analysis of Mr. Ramos’ trauma history. Mr. Ramos has remained disciplinary free since his last appearance before the Board. During his incarceration, Mr. Ramos engaged in educational programming and earned his GED. Mr. Ramos has engaged in vocational programming and has maintained employment. He has benefitted from his participation in programming, including the Long-Termers Restorative Justice Group. The victim’s daughters spoke at the hearing offering forgiveness, noting Mr. Ramos’ age at the time of the offense and did not object to his release on parole. Hampden ADA Michael Julian spoke in opposition. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Ramos has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks for CRJ-Program; Curfew - must be at home between 10PM and 6AM or at P.O.’s discretion; Electronic monitoring at P.O.’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 substance abuse evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan; Must have mental health counseling for trauma and transition; Long Term Residential Treatment program - CRJ program; Mandatory sign release of information forms for all providers.

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

1/4/24
Date