



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

COREY RAMOS

W82756

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: November 14, 2019

DATE OF DECISION: May 18, 2020

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

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. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in four years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

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.

On December 5, 2001, 17-year-old Corey Ramos stabbed Theodore Brown during an altercation at Springfield High School. Mr. Ramos was a student at the school, while Mr. Brown was employed there as an outreach counselor. As one of his responsibilities was to monitor the hallways between classes, Mr. Brown was authorized to enforce violations of the school's rules and procedures. On that day, Mr. Ramos was wearing a hood, which was a violation of the

officer. As a result, he spent three years in DDU. When asked if that was his first time in DDU, Mr. Ramos responded that it was not. While incarcerated on this sentence, Mr. Ramos received a 5-10 year sentence for spitting in a correctional officer's face. The Board noted that Mr. Ramos received multiple guilty findings for assaulting correctional officers, expressing concern for his prior behavior. When the Board noted the accrual of 20 disciplinary reports, Mr. Ramos acknowledged a pattern of violence. He explained that there was a "monster" inside of him, but told the Board that it ended in 2010. When the Board asked him to list potential triggers that could make him revert back to that behavior, Mr. Ramos responded that going back to that behavior is not an option.

Mr. Ramos told the Board that he completed the Culinary Arts, Beacon, Violence Reduction, Alternatives to Violence, and Massachusetts Community Outreach Initiative programs. Through his programming efforts, Mr. Ramos has learned to be "mindful" of himself and others.

The Board considered oral testimony in support of parole from Mr. Ramos' mother, brother, and cousin. The Board considered oral testimony in opposition to parole from Mr. Brown's two daughters. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Howard Safford.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Corey Ramos has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. In 2001, Mr. Ramos stabbed a high school counselor, Theodore Brown. He has a long history of assaultive/violent behavior in the community and within a correctional institution. He has yet to address his propensity for violence. While awaiting trial, he incurred a 5-10 year sentence for assault of a correctional officer. In addition, he received 2 DDU placements and was found guilty on three counts of assault and battery on a correctional officer.

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 the context of an offender 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 real chance to demonstrate maturity and rehabilitation." *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 471 Mass. 12, 30 (2015); See also *Commonwealth v. Okoro*, 471 Mass. 51 (2015).

The factors considered by the Board include the offender'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." *Id.* The Board also recognizes the petitioner's right to be represented by counsel during

his appearance before the Board. *Id at 20-24.* The Board has also considered whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Ramos' risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Ramos' case, the Board is of the opinion that Corey Ramos is not yet rehabilitated, and his release is not compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Ramos, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Ramos' next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Ramos 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. 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.



Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

5/18/2020
Date