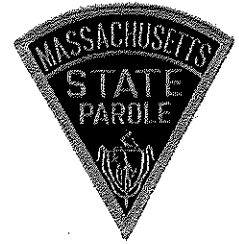


*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**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*

**Tonomey A. Coleman**  
*Acting Chair*

**Lian Hogan**  
*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**DANIEL ORTEGA**  
**W102429**

**TYPE OF HEARING:**      **Review Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:**      **April 24, 2025**

**DATE OF DECISION:**      **September 11, 2025**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz<sup>1</sup>

**VOTE:** Parole is granted to CRJ after 1 year in lower security in Massachusetts.<sup>2</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On April 5, 2013, in Middlesex Superior Court, Daniel Ortega pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole for the murder of 29-year-old Denis Osorio. Mr. Ortega's parole was denied after his initial hearing in 2023. On April 24, 2025, Mr. Ortega 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. Ortega's April 24, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On April 30, 2008, 26-year-old Daniel Ortega murdered Denis Osorio in Lowell. On that evening, Mr. Ortega and an accomplice arrived at Mr. Osorio's apartment with the intent to rob him. The two men entered the apartment and, as soon as they were inside, Mr. Ortega pulled out a black handgun and ordered Mr. Osorio to get down on the floor. When Mr. Osorio refused, Mr. Ortega immediately shot him. Mr. Ortega's accomplice then grabbed a can containing marijuana, and the two men ran out the back door of the apartment. The men then drove away in Mr. Ortega's car. Officers spoke with Mr. Osorio at the scene, who informed them that Mr. Ortega had shot him. Mr. Osorio died of his gunshot wound.

---

<sup>1</sup> Acting Chair Coleman and Board Member Ortiz were not present for the hearing, but they reviewed the video recording and the entirety of the file prior to vote. Former Chair Hurley participated in the hearing; however, she departed the Board prior to vote.

<sup>2</sup> One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years.

Further, a witness heard the gunshot and observed two men fleeing the apartment and entering a car that was registered to Mr. Ortega. Numerous witnesses had heard Mr. Ortega and his accomplice planning the robbery, and the same witnesses observed Mr. Ortega's accomplice with a can containing marijuana after the murder. Mr. Ortega also admitted to the robbery to his girlfriend, telling her that he was concerned that police would connect him to the murder because he had left his hat at the scene.

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

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Mr. Ortega is now 43-years-old and has been incarcerated for the past 17 years. At Mr. Ortega's last appearance before the Board, the Board encouraged Mr. Ortega to engage in Mental Health Treatment and therapy. Since that time, Mr. Ortega has demonstrated a commitment to engaging in his mental health needs and is invested in continued treatment in the community. The Board also notes that Mr. Ortega has participated in every program available to him while incarcerated and appears to have benefitted from this work. Mr. Ortega has maintained employment consistently and has established some financial security through his craftsmanship. He has strong family support to assist with his reentry needs. The Board heard testimony from Mr. Ortega's son, brother, and cousin in support of parole. The Board heard testimony from Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Alicia Walsh in opposition to parole.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Waive work for 2 weeks; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; 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 counseling for PTSD and anxiety; Long Term Residential Treatment; CRJ.

*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.*

  
Tonomy A. Coleman, Acting Chair

9/11/25  
Date

**Massachusetts Parole Board  
Life Sentence Unit  
12 Mercer Road  
Natick, MA 01760**

**Certificate of Service**

I, Carla Strutzel, Contract Placement/Interstate Compact Coordinator, Montana State Prison, certify that I served a true and accurate copy of the Massachusetts Parole Board's Record of Decision of September 11, 2025, by in-hand delivery, upon:

**Daniel Ortega  
(DOB April 19, 1982)  
Massachusetts ID W102429**

---

Daniel Ortega, Signature

Date

---

Carla Strutzel, Montana State Prison

Date

Please return and executed copy of Certificate of Service to  
Karen J. Kelly, Coordinator, Life Sentence Unit, Massachusetts Parole Board, via e-mail:  
[karen.kelly@mass.gov](mailto:karen.kelly@mass.gov)