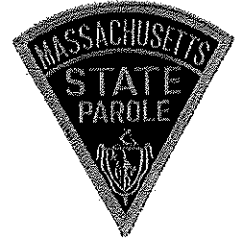


*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*



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*Chair*

**Lian Hogan**  
*Executive Director*

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**EDDY LOPEZ**  
**W92172**

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

**DATE OF HEARING:**        **September 24, 2024**

**DATE OF DECISION:**      **January 29, 2025**

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On August 10, 2007, in Essex Superior Court, Eddy Lopez pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of Gilberto "Jay" Martinez. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole, which was ordered to be served concurrently with the federal sentence that Mr. Lopez was serving at the time.<sup>1</sup> On that same date, Mr. Lopez also pleaded guilty to two counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon, receiving sentences of 5 years to 5 years and 1 day for each count, as well as two counts of assault by means of a dangerous weapon, receiving sentences of 4 to 5 years for each count. These charges stemmed from a June 7, 2007, melee at the Essex County House of Correction, in which Mr. Lopez participated, and five county correction officers were injured. The above sentences were ordered to be served concurrently with his life sentence.

Mr. Lopez appeared before the Parole Board on September 24, 2024, for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. Mr. Lopez was denied parole after his initial hearing in

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<sup>1</sup> On May 23, 2005, in U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts, Mr. Lopez was convicted of conspiracy to distribute heroin and cocaine, distribution of heroin, distribution of cocaine, felon in possession of a firearm, and felon in possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. He received a 35-year sentence. Mr. Lopez's sentence was amended in 2007 to 22 years and 6 months of incarceration, followed by supervised release for life.

2020. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Eddy Lopez's September 24, 2024, parole hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On July 7, 2003, Eddy Lopez, age 27, and an unnamed associate, shot and killed Gilberto "Jay" Martinez, age 31, as he sat in his vehicle outside a pizza restaurant in Lawrence. At the time of the shooting, Mr. Lopez was the leader of a street gang in Lawrence, and Mr. Martinez was a member of a rival gang. Shortly before the shooting, Mr. Lopez had engaged in a confrontation with Mr. Martinez and a few other members of the rival gang. The rival gang members pulled guns on Mr. Lopez in front of his family, telling him not to be in that part of town. Mr. Lopez later gathered several people and searched for Mr. Martinez. Mr. Lopez brought two guns, giving one to the unnamed associate. When they saw Mr. Martinez sitting in his car in front of Brother's Pizza, the men parked and approached him. After a brief exchange, Mr. Lopez and his associate started shooting at Mr. Martinez. They fled and disposed of the guns.

Mr. Martinez died that night from multiple gunshot wounds. Although the murder weapons were never recovered, projectiles and cartridge casings were recovered from the scene. An autopsy revealed that the victim was shot at least 17 times in his legs, back, and torso.

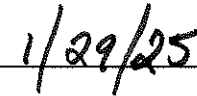
**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and 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 (if applicable).

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** The Board concludes that Eddy Lopez has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. This is Mr. Lopez's second appearance before the Board. He was serving a federal sentence when he pleaded guilty in Essex Superior Court. He completed his federal sentence and was returned to Massachusetts in February 2024. Since his return to Massachusetts, he has not completed any programming. He did complete programming while in federal custody. Mr. Lopez indicated that he did have further work to do and noted he would be amenable to a long step-down. Mr. Lopez scores high risk on the LS/CMI risk assessment tool. The Board believes that Mr. Lopez would benefit from programming related to victim empathy, such as VOEG or Emotional Awareness.

The victim's family voiced opposition to parole through written submissions. Essex County Assistant District Attorney Catherine Semel opposed parole. Mr. Lopez's daughter testified in support of parole.

*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

  
Date