



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ETNID LOPEZ
W105048

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: April 29, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: October 7, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is granted to Sober House on or after 2 weeks from the date of decision.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On April 1, 2013, following a jury trial in Bristol Superior Court, Etnid Lopez was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Tigan Hollingsworth. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. He became parole eligible following the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in *Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District*, 466 Mass. 655 (2013).

On April 29, 2025, Etnid Lopez appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Elizabeth Doherty. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Etnid Lopez's April 29, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On June 25, 2010, in Taunton, 17-year-old Etnid Lopez, along with his two co-defendants, beat and stabbed 17-year-old Tigan Hollingsworth to death. Taunton police responded to Grampy's Convenience Store for the report of a disturbance. The police arrived at the store located on Weir Street and met with a witness, who directed them to 148 Weir Street where Tigan Hollingsworth was observed face down on the driveway with his forearms supporting his head. There was a large pool of blood on the ground to the right and to the left of

¹ Board Member Ortiz was not present for the hearing, but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote. Former Chair Hurley participated in the hearing, but departed the Board prior to the decision.

the victim's head. The officer observed the victim had blood coming from his nose, his face, and his hands. The victim was mumbling, gasping for air, and stated, "I can't breathe," several times. An investigation determined that the victim and Mr. Lopez had an ongoing feud since they had been in middle school. A witness stated a verbal argument began at Grampy's Store, while the victim was with his father. Etnid Lopez, Erving Cruz, and Jean Carlos Lopez chased the victim; he was stabbed 13 times (once in his head, once in his right abdomen, and the remaining 11 stabbings in his back). The victim later died at the hospital after the assault.

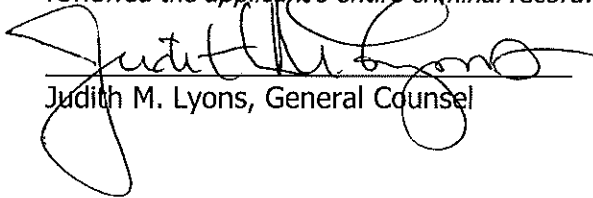
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain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

In the context of an incarcerated individual 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 incarcerated individual's right to be represented by counsel during their appearance before the Board. *Id.* at 20-24.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Lopez was a juvenile – 17 years old – at the time of offense. The Board reviewed the Miller/Diatchenko factors. The Board specifically notes Mr. Lopez's uncle was involved in the crime, and the underlying crime reflects many of the concerns regarding juvenile development factors. Mr. Lopez denies significant substance misuse concerns. He has been involved in educational programs through Boston University. Mr. Lopez has been heavily involved in rehabilitative and vocational programming. Dr. Herzog's evaluation notes Mr. Lopez is low risk on the risk assessment tool. The Board finds that Mr. Lopez has already been in lower security for 18 months, so no further step-down is required. The Board heard testimony from 2 friends of Mr. Lopez in support of parole. The Board also heard testimony from Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Karen O'Sullivan in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Etnid Lopez has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

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 substance abuse evaluation and follow recommendations; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Residential program - Sober Home.

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.



Judith M. Lyons, General Counsel

10/7/25
Date