

Secretary

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley Chair

Lian Hogan

Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

HECTOR ROBLES W90475

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: December 17, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: April 23, 2025

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

VOTE: Reserve to Interstate Compact (Florida) after 9 months in lower security.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On August 15, 2007, in Hampden Superior Court, Hector Robles pleaded guilty to second-degree murder for the death of William Valentin. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Robles also pleaded guilty to possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition, for which he was subsequently sentenced to concurrent terms of 3 to 5 years in state prison and 2 years in the House of Correction, respectively. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2021. On December 17, 2024, Hector Robles appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Hector Robles' December 17, 2024, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On the afternoon of January 16, 2006, Hector Robles and his codefendant, Roberto Ramos, encountered William Valentin in a stairwell in a Springfield apartment building. The parties were known to each other. Mr. Robles and Mr. Ramos confronted Mr. Valentin about selling drugs in that building. A witness heard Mr. Robles say, "If you are not from the block, you can't sell here or I'm going to clap you." The witness also observed Mr. Valentin put his hands in the air as if to protect himself. The witness stated that Mr. Robles drew a firearm from his waistband and shot Mr. Valentin multiple times. Mr. Robles and Mr. Ramos were apprehended in Connecticut several days after the murder.

One Board Member voted to grant parole without 9 months in lower security.

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).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Robles appeared before the Board for the second time. He is currently being housed out of state. After his last hearing, the Board encouraged Mr. Robles to refrain from incurring disciplinary reports and to engage in programming. Mr. Robles has recent controlled substance related disciplinary reports. He denies current substance use. He scores medium risk on the LSCMI risk assessment tool. Mr. Robles reports having completed many recent programs, including programs related to Victim Impact. Mr. Robles has completed his high school equivalency and is enrolled in college business classes. The Board considered a letter submitted by a correctional facility staff member in support of Mr. Robles attesting to his character and work ethic. Mr. Robles has a support system for his release. The Board notes the length of the reserve is to ensure Mr. Robles continues his rehabilitative efforts. The Board concludes that Hector Robles has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Release to other authority - Interstate Compact to Florida home plan; Waive work for 2 weeks; Electronic monitoring at Parole Officer discretion; Must take prescribed medication; 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 adjustment and PTSD; Must participate in individual and/or group substance abuse counseling and follow recommendations

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