

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF  
HECTOR ROBLES  
W90475

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing  
**DATE OF HEARING:** December 17, 2020  
**DATE OF DECISION:** October 28, 2021

**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 in four years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On August 15, 2007, in Hampden Superior Court, Hector Robles pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 22-year-old 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.

On the afternoon of January 16, 2006, Hector Robles and his co-defendant, Roberto Ramos, encountered William Valentin in a stairwell hallway in a Springfield apartment building. The parties were known to one another. 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.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON DECEMBER 17, 2020**

Hector Robles, now 38-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on December 17, 2020, for an initial hearing. He was not represented by counsel. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Robles outlined some of the programs he completed during his incarceration and expressed his wish to return as a "positive member of society." When the Board questioned him about the details of the governing offense, Mr. Robles' version at the hearing differed from the facts he pleaded to in 2007. At the hearing, Mr. Robles denied shooting William Valentin, stating that his co-defendant, Roberto Ramos, carried and fired the gun that killed him. Mr. Robles claimed that one of his friends had a prior dispute with Mr. Valentin, but they had resolved their differences with him.

On the day of the governing offense, Mr. Robles stated that he had returned to the apartment building to nap in another friend's apartment. Upon questioning, Mr. Robles admitted that he had frequently sold drugs in this apartment complex. Others, including Mr. Ramos, sold drugs in the same building, subject to Mr. Robles' direction. After he was woken from his nap by a man named "Pucho," the two men left the apartment and encountered Mr. Ramos in the hallway. The three men then saw Mr. Valentin in the hallway. Mr. Robles reported that Mr. Ramos pulled a gun from his waistband and shot Mr. Valentin. He denied discussing drug territories with Mr. Valentin, nor did he remember Mr. Ramos discussing that topic either. Mr. Robles claimed that he tried to walk away, but Mr. Ramos followed him. He attempted to separate by going to Hartford, Connecticut, but Mr. Ramos followed him again. In response to multiple questions regarding witness statements that contradicted his version of events, Mr. Robles claimed that he did not know why anyone would have described him as the shooter.

The Board questioned Mr. Robles as to his institutional adjustment, noting that he faced conflict early in his incarceration from Security Threat Groups and had been transferred to an out of state facility (where he is currently located). Over the course of his incarceration, Mr. Robles has incurred 21 disciplinary reports, including one as recently as August 2020. Mr. Robles completed an Anger Awareness program, which he told the Board has helped him develop better coping mechanisms and communication skills. Mr. Robles reported the completion of the Mediation and Conflict Resolution program, Residential Drug Abuse program, Youth Awareness Program, and canine training program. He stated that he worked in the kitchen and as a porter. The Board noted that Mr. Robles has not yet obtained his GED. Upon questioning, Mr. Robles admitted that he often used marijuana and ecstasy prior to his incarceration. Although he received a disciplinary report for Suboxone use, Mr. Robles denied any other substance use while incarcerated. He was enrolled in a Residential Drug Abuse program, but claimed it was canceled and has not yet been reinstated.

The Board considered testimony in support of parole from several of Mr. Robles' family members. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from the victim's family. The Board considered testimony and a letter from Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Howard Safford in opposition to parole.

## **III. DECISION**

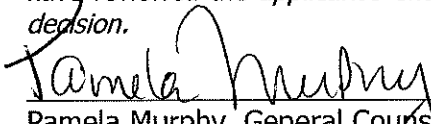
The Board is of the opinion that Hector Robles has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On January 16, 2006, Hector Robles shot and killed William Valentin. Mr. Robles is currently incarcerated [out of state]. Mr. Robles has completed limited programming. He is encouraged to pursue meaningful treatment/programming in the areas of victim impact, empathy, and

education. In addition, Mr. Robles should maintain a positive adjustment and refrain from incurring any additional disciplinary infractions. He has incurred 21 disciplinary reports to date.

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 forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Robles' institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Robles' risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Robles' case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Hector Robles is not rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Robles's next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Robles to continue working toward 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.*

  
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Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

10/28/2021  
Date