

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road  
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence Reidy  
Secretary

Telephone # (508) 650-4500  
Facsimile # (508) 650-4599

Gloriann Moroney  
Chair

Kevin Keefe  
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

HECTOR SANTIAGO  
W63057

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** October 19, 2021

**DATE OF DECISION:** February 22, 2022

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa<sup>1</sup>

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On July 29, 1997, in Suffolk Superior Court, Hector Santiago pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 3-month-old Tyler Kearney and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Mr. Santiago appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on October 19, 2021 and was represented by Boston College Law students Sara Oppenheimer and Maxwell Ruh. This was Mr. Santiago's fourth appearance before the Board having been denied after hearings in 2010, 2013 and 2018. The entire video recording of Mr. Santiago October 19, 2021 hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

**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 a unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Reserve to the Chelsea House after completion of six months in lower security. Mr. Santiago served 26 years for the death of Tyler Kearney, who was three months old. This is Mr. Santiago's first commitment. Since his last hearing he has continued to engage in meaningful programs to include Restorative Justice and Jericho Circle. In addition, he earned a degree from Boston University. He has also maintained his sobriety and an overall positive adjustment. He appears to have a solid support network as he reintegrates.

<sup>1</sup> Chair Moroney recused.

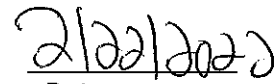
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society."

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Santiago's 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. Santiago's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Santiago's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Santiago is rehabilitated and merits parole after successful completion of six months in lower security.

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to Chelsea House for a period of one year after completion of six months in lower security; Waive work for two weeks; Must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; 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 adjustment/transition, depression and anxiety; Must AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date