



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

Thomas A. Turco III
Secretary

Telephone: (508) 650-4500

Facsimile: (508) 650-4599

Gloriann Moroney
Chair

Kevin Keefe
Executive Director

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF
JEREMIAH TORRES

W54666

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **January 14, 2020**

DATE OF DECISION: **July 16, 2020**

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 scheduled in two years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On June 18, 1993, in Hampden Superior Court, Jeremiah Torres pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 28-year-old Lisa Lee Dolley and was sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On the morning of January 3, 1993, Ms. Dolley's body was discovered in a vacant lot on Dale Street in Springfield. It was apparent that she had been stabbed repeatedly. On the evening prior, Ms. Dolley was at a bar in Springfield, having left with 29-year-old Jeremiah Torres shortly before midnight. Subsequent police investigation revealed that two witnesses had observed Ms. Dolley leave the bar in the company of Mr. Torres. When police seized Mr. Torres' car, they discovered a substantial amount of blood inside. Mr. Torres was arrested a few weeks after the murder. He claimed that the victim made an unwanted sexual advance toward him, and that she would not get out of his car when he asked her to do so. Mr. Torres said that his mind went blank when he stabbed her. An autopsy revealed that Ms. Dolley was stabbed 28 times in the stomach, chest, hands, leg, and back, resulting in her death.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JANUARY 14, 2020

Jeremiah Torres, now 57-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on January 14, 2020, for a review hearing and was represented by Attorney John Fitzpatrick and student attorney Javier Secaira of the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project. Mr. Torres had been granted parole to the Harmony House after his initial hearing in 2008. He subsequently received several graduated sanctions for a number of violations. In July 2011, GPS monitoring revealed that he was frequenting liquor stores. Mr. Torres was taken into custody and revocation proceedings began for lying to parole officers, drinking alcohol, and irresponsible conduct. The Board affirmed the revocation on March 8, 2012, and Mr. Torres was put on the next available list. Parole was denied after his 2012 review hearing. Mr. Torres received a positive parole vote after his 2017 hearing and was paroled to the Casa Esperanza Long-Term Residential Treatment in 2018. On October 20, 2018, Mr. Torres was abruptly discharged from the program due to verbal threats he made towards a female resident and for the inappropriate touching of a female resident. Mr. Torres was returned to custody that same date. His parole was revoked in January 2019, and he was put on the next available list.

In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Torres expressed remorse for the murder of Ms. Dolley and for the pain and suffering that his actions caused her family. When the Board questioned him about his most recent parole revocation, Mr. Torres denied inappropriately touching or threatening anyone at the treatment center. He admitted, however, to referring to a female resident using a misogynistic term. Mr. Torres suggested that a resident at the treatment center was making false accusations because he was not interested in a romantic relationship. The Board expressed concern that Mr. Torres' governing offense involved stabbing a woman, who had shown him romantic interest, and the recent accusation of threatening another woman who had shown him romantic interest. The Board questioned Mr. Torres about the murder of Ms. Dolley and, in particular, why he stabbed her 28 times. Mr. Torres claims that he was drunk during the murder, but noted that he is not blaming alcohol, as he recognizes that he should have just walked away. As to the number of times he stabbed the victim, Mr. Torres claims to have been unaware that he was stabbing her; rather, he thought he was punching Ms. Dolley with his fists. Mr. Torres also admitted to prior instances of domestic violence.

When Board Members discussed his parole violations in 2011, Mr. Torres explained that his parole supervision was going well up until that time; he was living with his sister in Springfield, attending Alcoholics Anonymous three times a week, volunteering at a community center, and helping to care for his grandson. Mr. Torres stated that he could not work and was collecting SSDI due to spinal problems. He acknowledged his stupidity, however, for drinking on parole supervision and for lying about his violations, stating that he knew he would be sent back to prison. Mr. Torres claims he now understands that he cannot do whatever he wants on parole supervision. Instead, he needs to assume responsibility.

Mr. Torres insisted his programming efforts have given him the tools he needs to be successful, yet Mr. Torres is not currently participating in programming, nor has he engaged in any programming efforts since his return to custody in October 2018. Mr. Torres reported that he is waitlisted for school and G.M.P., but was told that the waitlist is long. When the Board questioned him about attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Mr. Torres said that he does

not attend because the chairs hurt his back. The Board encouraged him to attend the meetings and to seek accommodations, if necessary.

Mr. Torres' daughter submitted a letter in support of parole.

III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Jeremiah Torres has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Torres is currently incarcerated for the murder of Lisa Dolley in January 2003. Mr. Torres was re-paroled in July of 2018 to Casa Esperanza in Boston, where he remained until his return to custody a mere three months later. On October 20, 2018, he was terminated from the program for making verbal threats towards a female resident, as well as inappropriately touching a female resident. The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Torres has unresolved issues with women. In addition, he is not attending AA/NA within the institution. Mr. Torres should re-engage in substance abuse programming and attend all recommended programming. Mr. Torres minimizes his parole failure.

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. Torres' 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. Torres' risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Torres' case, the Board is of the opinion that Jeremiah Torres does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Torres' next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages him to continue working towards 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.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

7/16/2020
Date