



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*



**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Paul M. Treseler**  
*Chairperson*

**Michael J. Callahan**  
*Executive Director*

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF  
JEREMIAH TORRES**

**W54666**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** May 16, 2017

**DATE OF DECISION:** March 26, 2018

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe

**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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole to a long term residential program with special conditions.<sup>1</sup>

**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. Upon discovery of the body, it was apparent that Ms. Dolley had been stabbed repeatedly. On the prior evening, Ms. Dolley had been at a bar in Springfield and left with Mr. Torres shortly before midnight. Subsequent police investigation revealed that two witnesses had observed Ms. Dolley leave the bar in the company of Mr. Torres. Police seized Mr. Torres' car, searched it, and discovered a substantial amount of blood inside. Mr. Torres was arrested a few weeks after the murder. He claimed that the victim had made an unwanted sexual advance toward him and would not get out of his car when he asked her to do so. He

<sup>1</sup> Four Board Members voted to reserve parole to a long term residential program with special conditions. Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review hearing in three years from the date of the hearing.

said his mind went blank when he stabbed her. An autopsy revealed that Ms. Dolley had been stabbed 28 times in the stomach, chest, hands, leg, and back, ultimately resulting in her death.

In 2008, Mr. Torres was paroled to the Harmony House. 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 violating parole by lying to parole officers, drinking alcohol, and irresponsible conduct. The Board affirmed the revocation on March 8, 2012.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON MAY 16, 2017**

Jeremiah Torres, now 55-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on May 16, 2017, for a review hearing and was represented by Attorney John Fitzpatrick of the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project. Mr. Torres' parole had been denied following a 2012 review hearing. In his opening statement, Mr. Torres expressed remorse for the murder of Ms. Dolley and for the pain and suffering that his actions caused her family. Mr. Torres took full responsibility for his actions, stating that he had no right to take the life of Ms. Dolley. Mr. Torres explained that he has participated in as many programs as he could. He has learned how to be a better community member and has developed active listening skills, self-control, and emotional awareness. Mr. Torres also took full responsibility for his poor performance under parole supervision and apologized for his actions. Mr. Torres stated that he now knows how to ask for help and what he needs to do differently, if paroled.

Attorney Fitzpatrick indicated that while Mr. Torres' initial transition on parole was not seamless, he adapted and performed well on parole for approximately a year and a half to two years until his relapse, ultimately leading to his parole revocation. Attorney Fitzpatrick expressed concerns to the Board regarding graduated sanctions that Mr. Torres received on parole, particularly for failure to pay fees. Attorney Fitzpatrick noted that he has been unable to obtain Mr. Torres' medical records from the Department of Correction, which he said are relevant to his parole hearing.

When asked why he committed the attack on Ms. Dolley, Mr. Torres indicated that he had "suppressed anger," of which he was unaware. In describing the crime, Mr. Torres said that he had encountered Ms. Dolley at a bar. Later, when he went to leave, Ms. Dolley put her arm around his and asked for a ride. Mr. Torres agreed and the two got in the car. He asked her where she lived and Ms. Dolley responded, "Let's ride around." Mr. Torres agreed, and they eventually stopped somewhere on the road and continued drinking together. Ms. Dolley removed her top and asked Mr. Torres if he had any money. Mr. Torres stated that he was not going to give her any money. Eventually, Mr. Torres stated that he pushed her away and told her to get out of the car, but she refused. She stated, "No one rejects me." The two began arguing. Mr. Torres drove around, stopped the car, and again, told Ms. Dolley to get out. He grabbed a knife and began stabbing her. Mr. Torres stated that he thought he was punching her, but actually, he was stabbing her. Realizing what he had done, Mr. Torres removed Ms. Dolley from the car and left her to die. At the time of the offense, he was consuming drugs and alcohol on a frequent basis. Mr. Torres also admitted to prior instances of domestic violence.

In discussing his release on parole in 2008, Mr. Torres indicated that he may not have been prepared because he did not trust anyone, including his parole officer. He believes his



problems on parole began when his doctor told him not to make sudden movements after being diagnosed with a curvature in his spine and arthritis, which could ultimately result in paralysis. Mr. Torres stated this scared him and caused him to "stop doing things around the house." The Board expressed concerns with being able to trust that Mr. Torres would comply with conditions of parole since he had previously been tracked in areas of crime and drug activity. In addition, he had lied to parole staff. The Board noted that the overall concern at Mr. Torres' 2012 hearing was not related to the payment of fees, but rather, Mr. Torres' dishonesty on parole. However, since then, Mr. Torres has made strides towards rehabilitation and has participated in several programs including Emotional Awareness, Jericho Circle, Anger Management, Active Listening, and Alcoholics Anonymous ("AA").

In addition to written submissions, the Board considered oral testimony of Mr. Torres' daughter, who expressed support for his release. The Board also considered the testimony of Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Howard Safford, who expressed opposition to parole.

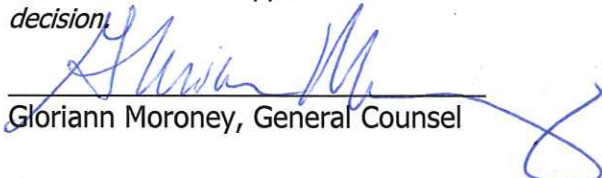
### **III. DECISION**

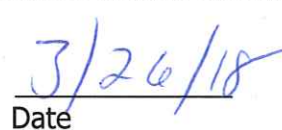
Jeremiah Torres has been re-incarcerated for 6 years. His violations were related to his relapse with alcohol and non-compliance with some conditions. Mr. Torres' return to custody was sufficient time to address his needs.

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 merits parole at this time to a long term residential program, subject to special condition(s).

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Waive work for LTRP (Long Term Residential Program); Must be at home between 10 pm and 6am; Electronic monitoring/GPS; Must have hearing in custody upon first indication of substance abuse; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with agency policy; Supervise for Liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with agency policy; Must report to assigned Massachusetts Parole Office on day of release. Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition; Long term residential program; Must attend AA at least three times/week.

*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.*

  
Gloriann Moroney, General Counsel

  
Date