

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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Chair

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Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JESUS PIZARRO  
W83977

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** November 10, 2020

**DATE OF DECISION:** June 28, 2021

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy<sup>1</sup>

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On July 22, 2004, after a jury trial in Middlesex Superior Court, Jesus Pizarro was found guilty of the second-degree murder of Jose Rijos and sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Pizarro was also found guilty of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. That charge was placed on file.

Mr. Pizarro appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on November 10, 2020 and was represented by Boston College Law students Evelyn Jackson and Claudia Manda. This was Mr. Pizarro's second appearance before the Board, having been denied in 2017. The entire video recording of Mr. Pizarro's November 10, 2020 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 that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>2</sup> Reserve to Long Term Residential Program after six months in lower security. Mr. Pizarro has served 18 years for the for the murder of 28-year-old Jose Rijos. Since his initial hearing he has completed numerous programs to include the Correctional Recovery Academy, Nuestra Familia and Restorative Justice Victim Offender Education Group and Retreat. Mr. Pizarro accepts responsibility and appears remorseful for his criminal conduct

<sup>1</sup> Board Member Colette Santa was unavailable.

<sup>2</sup> Four Board Members voted to grant parole, and two Board Members voted to deny parole.

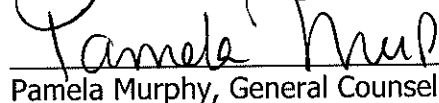
resulting in murder. It is the opinion of the Board that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society, after a gradual transition. Mr. Pizarro needs to demonstrate that he can be successful in a lesser restrictive environment prior to release on parole supervision.

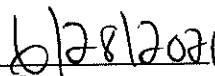
The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "Parole Board Members shall only grant a parole permit if they are of the opinion that there is a reasonable probability that, if such offender is released, the offender will live and remain at liberty without violating the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

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Pizarro'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. Pizarro's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Pizarro's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Pizarro is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

**Special Conditions:** Reserve to Long Term Residential Program (LTRP) after six months in lower security; Waive work for LTRP; Curfew 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 or association - STG activity/affiliation; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times/week; May have contact with [named individual].

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

  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
Date