

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JESUS SIERRA
W54612

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: February 6, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: May 13, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 3 years from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 9, 1993, in Suffolk Superior Court, Jesus Sierra was convicted of murder in the second degree for the death of Santa Montanez. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2007, and after review hearings in 2012, 2017, and 2022. On February 6, 2025, Jesus Sierra appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Jesus Sierra's February 6, 2025, hearing.


STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On March 7, 1992, 26-year-old Jesus Sierra stabbed 34-year-old Santa Montanez numerous times and strangled her to death. Mr. Sierra and Ms. Montanez had been dating for less than a year when he moved into her third-floor apartment in Dorchester, where she lived with her 11-year-old daughter. On the night of the murder, Mr. Sierra arrived home from work around midnight. At around 12:40 a.m., Ms. Montanez's sister, who lived on the second floor, heard screaming in her sister's apartment upstairs. Ms. Montanez's other sister, who lived on the first floor, joined her sister and her husband in checking on Ms. Montanez. They proceeded to the third floor and entered the apartment. They went to the locked bedroom door and called out, asking if everything was okay. After Mr. Sierra responded that everything was fine, they returned to their respective apartments. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Sierra left the house.

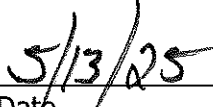
When Ms. Montanez's sisters returned to the third floor to check on her, they found that she had been strangled with an extension cord and stabbed numerous times with a small knife. Ms. Montanez was rushed to Boston City Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was determined to be asphyxia and strangulation from a ligature. Ms. Montanez's 11-year-old daughter was asleep when Mr. Sierra murdered her mother. The next day, Mr. Sierra turned himself in to police and admitted to the crime.

APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Sierra has been incarcerated for the past 33 years. During that time, he has amassed 91 disciplinary reports. Since the last time he was before the Board, Mr. Sierra received 5 disciplinary reports, including 1 for aggravated assault and 2 for threatening staff members, among others, resulting in his return to maximum security. Although Mr. Sierra has participated in significant programming while incarcerated, his ongoing use of violence reflects his current inability to resolve matters in a pro-social way. Mr. Sierra's testimony at the hearing reflected a lack of empathy and remorse. The Board encourages Mr. Sierra to continue to invest his time with programming that addresses his issues with violence and to remain disciplinary report free. The Board heard testimony from Ms. Montanez's brother in opposition to parole. The Board also heard testimony from Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Jesus Sierra has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

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.


Tina M. Hurley, Chair


Date