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**PAROLE BOARD**

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Josh Wall  
Chairman

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**JORGE BLANCO**

**W61981**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** May 22, 2012

**DATE OF DECISION:** April 23, 2013

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Cesar Archilla, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Shelia Dupre, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Parole, after six months in medium security with completion of Correctional Recovery Academy Maintenance Program, to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer. The decision is unanimous.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

Jorge Blanco appeared before the Massachusetts Parole Board for a review hearing on the life sentence he is currently serving at MCI-Norfolk. Mr. Blanco received this sentence in Suffolk Superior Court on January 15, 1997, after pleading guilty to second-degree murder in the stabbing death of 61-year-old Eusebo Perez.

On June 29, 1995, Jorge Blanco had an argument with Eusebo Perez and Perez struck Blanco in the head with a set of keys. Blanco demanded an apology and said he would be back. Later that evening, Perez was sitting in his car with the window open. A car pulled up alongside Perez's car and Blanco got out of the car. Blanco reached into Perez's car, stabbed him, and fled. Eusebo Perez died from a stab wound to the chest.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON MAY 22, 2012**

Jorge Blanco expressed remorse for the murder of Eusebo Perez and provided information about his background and the events related to the murder. Mr. Blanco grew up in Havana, Cuba as one of ten children. His younger years were fairly stable until his father's alcoholism caused discord in the family unit. He began experimenting with alcohol which led to "troubled" teen years. He moved to Massachusetts in 1980 at the age of 18. He resided in Boston and worked sporadically as a cook and became a "functioning alcoholic." His alcoholism led the way for drug use and a criminal lifestyle.

According to Blanco, he had a verbal confrontation with Eusebo Perez resulting in Perez hitting him in the head with keys, drawing blood. Blanco asked for an apology and became enraged when Perez refused. Blanco stated that his pride took over and he returned to the scene of the altercation several hours later after consuming "about a case of Budweiser" and found Perez seated in his car and stabbed him. Blanco said his only intention was to hurt Mr. Perez "in retaliation," not to kill him.

The inmate has a total of four disciplinary reports, the last occurring in 2009. He has received excellent or adequate work and unit evaluations throughout his incarceration. He has held jobs as a janitor, food server, tool crib handler, and a carpenter.

He has completed Anger Management, Alternatives to Violence, Jericho Circle, Emotional Awareness, Relapse Prevention, and ESL classes. In June 2011, Blanco took advantage of his two year set back and obtained his Welder's license. He maintained employment in the metal shop and attended AA meetings until his hospitalization for throat cancer.

Jorge Blanco acknowledges that he will have to be released to the ICE detainer and wants to be paroled to a long term residential program if released from ICE custody. Blanco's son and brother testified in support of parole. Anthony and Dan Pino, friends of Blanco testified that they would provide "a place to stay" and employment at Pino Brother's Construction Company.

Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni noted Blanco's positive change, but testified in opposition to parole indicating that Blanco continues "to gloss over some things."

## **III. DECISION**

Jorge Blanco has served nearly 18 years of his life sentence for the stabbing death of Eusebo Perez. He has used that time productively by maintaining employment, participating in important rehabilitative programs, and showing overall good conduct. He has received only four disciplinary reports. He has worked to address his alcoholism. He has shown no tendency to repeat the violent act that caused Mr. Perez's death. The four goals of sentencing – punishment, deterrence, public protection, and rehabilitation – have been accomplished.

The standard applied in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 CMR 300.04, which provides that "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." Applying that appropriately high standard, we find that the inmate does merit parole at this time.

The Parole Board expects that ICE will not be able to return Blanco to Cuba. These parole conditions plan for the likelihood that his supervision will be in Massachusetts, where he has a support network and expected employment. A long term residential program will assist him with a successful transition.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Release to ICE detainer after six months in medium security and completion of Correctional Recovery Academy; long term residential program after release from ICE; no drug use; no alcohol use; substance abuse evaluation at residential program with requirement to follow recommended treatment; AA or NA three times per week; no contact with victim's family.

*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.*



Janis DiLoreto Noble, General Counsel

4/23/13

Date