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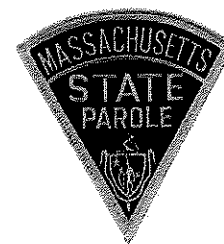
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Daniel Nakamoto
Acting Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JOSE QUINONES
W99678

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: October 17, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: January 4, 2024

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review three years from the date of this hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On April 1, 2004, in Hampden Superior Court, Jose Quinones pleaded guilty to possession with intent to distribute a Class B controlled substance and was sentenced to a prison term of 7 to 10 years. On that same date, Mr. Quinones also pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment with the possibility of parole, ordered to be served from and after the 7 to 10 year sentence.

Mr. Quinones appeared before the Board for his initial hearing on October 17, 2023. He was not represented by counsel. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Quinones's October 17, 2023 hearing.


STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On June 13, 2002, in Springfield, MA, Jose Quinones, 19 years old, stabbed and killed Sandra McConnell, 58 years old. On the night of the murder, Mr. Quinones walked into a Sunoco gas station with a knife. He told the clerk, Sandra McConnell, to open the cash register. When she refused, he stabbed her. Ms. McConnell later died from her injury. Mr. Quinones took the cash from the register and fled. Later that night he bought crack cocaine from friends he was staying with and smoked it. He was identified through video footage from the gas station.

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.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This is Mr. Quinones’s first appearance before the Board. The Board reviewed the underlying facts and circumstances of his conviction and noted the connection to controlled substances. Mr. Quinones continued to have issues with substance use while incarcerated. Mr. Quinones’s last disciplinary report was in July 2023. Mr. Quinones scores as high-risk on his risk-needs assessment. Mr. Quinones is currently housed in high security. The Board finds Mr. Quinones has engaged in programming including most recently the Restorative Justice reading program and Jericho Circle. Mr. Quinones has engaged in educational programming and the Board encourages him to continue his educational efforts. The Board acknowledges Hampden County ADA Michael Julian who appeared before the Board in opposition to parole. No one spoke in support.

The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Jose Quinones 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

1/4/24
Date