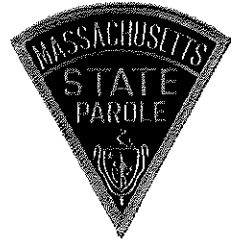


*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*



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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**LAZARO MIRANDA**  
**W68768**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** August 20, 2024

**DATE OF DECISION:** November 20, 2024

**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 two years from the date of the hearing.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On November 16, 2000, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Lazaro Miranda was found guilty by a jury of first-degree murder in the death of 27-year-old Lisa McLester on the theory of extreme atrocity or cruelty. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On March 27, 2024, Mr. Miranda's first-degree life sentence was vacated, and he was re-sentenced to a second-degree life sentence with the possibility of parole.

On August 20, 2024, Mr. Miranda appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Lazaro Miranda's August 20, 2024, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On December 29, 1997, 32-year-old Lazaro Miranda murdered his girlfriend, Lisa McLester, with a machete. That evening, a neighbor overheard two loud thumps coming from a bedroom in the apartment above hers, where Ms. McLester lived with Mr. Miranda and her four-year-old child. The neighbor heard male and female voices and, specifically, that a male voice was yelling repeatedly and making claims of infidelity. She also heard the child crying.

Shortly thereafter, the neighbor heard the same voices in the hallway outside her apartment. She heard the man making threats to kill, while disrespectfully questioning whether the other party was still alive. The neighbor also heard a repeated swoosh sound as if something was swinging.

She entered the hallway and saw Mr. Miranda, whom she recognized. Mr. Miranda threatened to kill her, however, so she ran back inside her apartment and called police. While she waited, she heard someone running on the stairs and leaving the building.

Boston police arrived and found Ms. McLester unresponsive at the base of the stairs on the first floor. She was transported to a local hospital, where she was pronounced dead, having suffered multiple chop wounds to the head. She had several skull fractures and similar wounds to the upper body. Officers began searching for Mr. Miranda at various addresses throughout Boston. In the early morning hours of December 30, 1997, police located him walking on the street carrying a sheathed machete with a broken handle. Mr. Miranda was subsequently taken into custody.

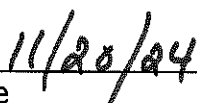
**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and 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:** Lazaro Miranda has been sober for 27 years and has received few disciplinary reports during his incarceration. However, Mr. Miranda has a history of domestic violence, including the governing offense. Yet, Mr. Miranda has not participated in adequate programming addressing this clear need. The Board would encourage additional programming related to domestic violence.

Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood and members of the victim's family spoke in opposition to parole. Members of Mr. Miranda's family spoke in support of parole.

*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