



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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**Charlene Bonner**  
*Chairperson*

**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**LORENZO PERDOMO**

**W40652**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** April 7, 2015

**DATE OF DECISION:** May 20, 2015

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Lee Gartenberg, Ina Howard-Hogan, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying 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 writing, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is denied with a review in five years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On July 31, 1984, in Suffolk Superior Court, Lorenzo Perdomo was convicted of second degree murder for the shooting death of his 15-year-old girlfriend, Marielos Hernandez, and was sentenced to life in prison. At the same time, he received a consecutive life sentence for unlawful possession of a sawed-off shotgun. On November 27, 1985, that sentence was revoked and revised to a 10 to 15 year sentence, concurrent with his life sentence for second degree murder. Approximately 10 years later, on December 27, 1995, in Norfolk Superior Court, Perdomo pleaded guilty to manslaughter for beating his 54-year-old cell-mate to death. Perdomo was sentenced to 15 to 20 years, to run concurrently with his life sentence.

Perdomo states that in 1981, he lived in an apartment in Jamaica Plain and that Marielos Hernandez lived across the hallway. According to Perdomo, they immediately "hit it off" and, shortly thereafter, moved in together. At the time, Ms. Hernandez was 15 years old and Perdomo was 23. On the night of the offense, August 23, 1982, Perdomo claims that they got into an argument. He says there was a struggle and Ms. Hernandez was shot in the stomach

with a sawed-off shotgun. Perdomo was arrested and initially charged with assault with intent to murder, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and unlawful carrying of a firearm. Following the victim's death two days later, Perdomo was charged and, ultimately, convicted after a jury trial of second degree murder.

Additionally, in December of 1995, Perdomo pleaded guilty to manslaughter for the May 5, 1994, beating death of one of his cell-mates, Paul Dusablon. On the date of the offense, Perdomo's two other cell-mates informed the corrections staff that Perdomo wielded a wooden chair leg and struck the victim in the head approximately 50 to 60 times while he lay asleep. In 2002, Perdomo repeatedly struck another inmate over the head with a wooden brush until it broke. Perdomo then stabbed him in the head using a broken piece of the wooden brush handle. While not criminally prosecuted, Perdomo received a lengthy commitment in the DDU. These incidents clearly indicate that Perdomo has had a history of poor institutional adjustment. Perdomo has received multiple additional serious disciplinary reports, many for assaultive or threatening conduct, including several additional disciplinary reports since his last hearing in 2010.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING APRIL 7, 2015**

Lorenzo Perdomo appeared before the Massachusetts Parole Board for a review hearing on April 7, 2015. This was Perdomo's third appearance before the Board, having been seen and denied by the Board in 2005 and 2010. Perdomo is 57-years-old and has served 32 years on his life sentence. Since 2009, he has been incarcerated at Souza Baranowski Correctional Center. There are no co-defendants in this case.

Perdomo was not represented by counsel at his hearing. Perdomo stated that he came to the United States from Cuba at age 23. He served in the Cuban military and says that he was previously incarcerated in Cuba for stealing food from a store. Upon his arrival in the U.S., he was sent to refugee camps in Wisconsin and Arkansas and then went to Massachusetts at the invitation of a friend. After living in Massachusetts for a short time, he then moved to California and was reportedly arrested on a still-unresolved case for burglary. After a short residence in California, Perdomo moved back to Massachusetts to the apartment in Jamaica Plain, where the murder of Ms. Hernandez occurred in 1982. He said that Ms. Hernandez knew him for two months before she moved in with him and that prior to the shooting, she had lived with him for eight or nine months. He was working as an auto mechanic in Dorchester and she was attending school.

Perdomo claimed he received the shotgun that caused the death of Ms. Hernandez from a friend three or four months prior to the incident. He said that he kept the gun loaded in a closet and that Ms. Hernandez knew where it was. He said the shooting was the result of an argument with Ms. Hernandez that occurred one afternoon at their apartment after he came out of the shower. He claimed that Ms. Hernandez pointed the gun at him, threatening to kill him. He said that she did this because she was jealous that he went out with one of her friends. After several minutes of talking, Perdomo said he grabbed for the gun and she was shot in the stomach. He denied pulling the trigger. He was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to life with the possibility of parole on July 31, 1984.



Perdomo claimed that his early years of incarceration were relatively problem-free. He had three disciplinary reports for fighting prior to the incident with Mr. Dusablon on May 5, 1994. In that incident, Perdomo says that he was assigned to live with Mr. Dusablon and two others in a four man cell. He claims that he was not supposed to be in a four man cell due to his mental health issues. Shortly after they were housed together, he and Mr. Dusablon started having ongoing disputes, which resulted in Perdomo's request to be moved. The request was not granted. Perdomo claimed that he was provoked by Mr. Dusablon, who threatened to kill him first. He told the Board that he only hit Mr. Dusablon five times with a wooden chair leg. However, reports indicate that the level of harm was consistent with a more severe beating and there were allegations that he hit him as many as 50 or 60 times. Perdomo claimed that he just wanted to teach Mr. Dusablon a lesson. Although Perdomo expressed regret for his past actions, he said that he was angry when the incident with Mr. Dusablon occurred.

Perdomo has mental health issues that include a diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia. During his incarceration, he was sent to Bridgewater over 20 times. He also claimed to have heard voices. Perdomo attributed his past behavior to "bad medication," which he says has since been corrected. He states that his current anti-depression medication is working and he has taken it for the past eight years. He claims to be seeing a therapist who is monitoring his medications. Perdomo's program involvement since his 2010 hearing includes the completion of Residential Treatment Unit Cycles 8-24 at the Old Colony Correctional Center. He was also involved in Catholic religious activities in 2013 and worked in the institution in 2010, 2011, and 2014. However, it appears that Perdomo has not adequately addressed his anger issues, as there is no documentation of completion of anger management or anti violence programming.

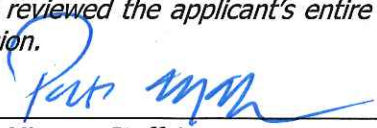
Perdomo asked the Board to parole him to Cuba, but had no witnesses speaking in support of his parole. Speaking in strong opposition to parole were the son of victim, Paul Dusablon, the two brothers of the first victim, Marielos Hernandez, and Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Charles Bartoloni. All expressed the view that Perdomo would likely re-offend if he were granted parole.

### **III. DECISION**

Perdomo, now 57-years-old, has been incarcerated for the past 32 years for the murder of his 15-year-old girlfriend. He also has a separate manslaughter conviction for brutally beating one of his cell-mates to death in 1994, and his institutional record contains numerous serious and violent disciplinary reports, including two DDU placements. Perdomo has had an extremely poor adjustment to incarceration and has hardly participated in any programming over the past 32 years. His most recent disciplinary report was in August of 2014.

The standard we apply 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 here, it is the unanimous opinion of the Board that Lorenzo Perdomo does not merit parole. The Board is concerned with Perdomo's mental health issues, as well as the possibility that Perdomo could commit further violent acts, given his serious history of violence both on the street and in the institution. Accordingly, parole is denied with a review in five years from the date of the hearing.

*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.*

  
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Peter Mimmo, Staff Attorney

  
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Date