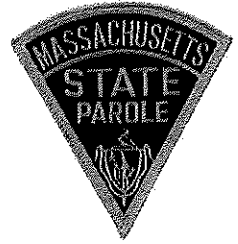


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MALEIN "CHARLIE" MEAS
W97574

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: November 14, 2024

DATE OF DECISION: February 19, 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 granted to CRJ or Long-Term Residential Program after 90-day step-down to lower security (suggestion Pondville).

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On November 22, 2010, after a jury trial in Middlesex County Superior Court, Malein Meas was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of José Anthony "Tony" Villanueva and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. He was also convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm and sentenced to a concurrent term of 4 to 5 years in state prison.

Mr. Meas was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2022. Mr. Meas, now 40-years-old, appeared before the Board for a review hearing on November 14, 2024. He was represented by student attorneys Sarah Drescher and Lauren O'Connell from Harvard Law School. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Malein Meas' November 14, 2024 parole hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On January 20, 2008, at about 2 o'clock in the morning, 24-year-old Malein "Charlie" Meas stopped at a 7-Eleven in Lowell. José Villanueva (age 36) was parked in the 7-Eleven parking lot. When Mr. Meas got out of his car, he looked over to where Mr. Villanueva was parked and said, "What the [expletive] are you looking at!" Mr. Meas then went into the store. When Mr. Meas exited the store, Mr. Villanueva got out of his car and hit Mr. Meas in the head. In response, Mr. Meas pulled a gun from his waistband and said, "So you think you're tough" and shot Mr. Villanueva three times in the head and chest. After fatally shooting Mr. Villanueva, Mr. Meas jumped in his car and fled to New Hampshire, where he was apprehended.

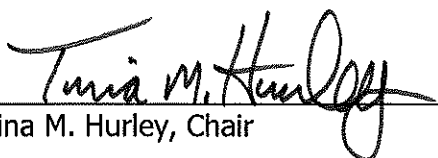
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole “[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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 incarcerated individual’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 incarcerated individual’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 incarcerated individual at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the incarcerated individual’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).

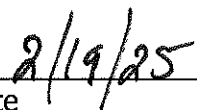
DECISION OF THE BOARD: This was Mr. Meas’ second appearance before the Board. He presented with a lot of community support. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Tufts University in 2024. He stated that he is interested in pursuing advanced degrees. He has gained occupational skills. He is involved with TPP (Transformational Prison Project). He has completed substantial programming, including recently completing the Correctional Recovery Academy (CRA) in September 2024. Mr. Meas presents with insight into his past behaviors. In terms of his re-entry plan, Mr. Meas identifies areas of need and positive steps to address those areas of need.

Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Alicia Walsh submitted a letter and testified in opposition to parole. Several individuals submitted letters in support of parole. Two friends of Mr. Meas testified in support of his parole. The Board concludes that Malein “Charlie” Meas has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for program; Curfew – must be at home between 10 pm and 6 am for duration of program only; ELMO – electronic monitoring for duration of program and then for 90 days only; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; No contact with victim(s)’ family; Must have mental health evaluation and must comply with recommended treatment plan; Long-Term Residential Program or CRJ Program; AA at least 3 times per week; Mandatory allow contact with [named individuals] and individuals at TTP.

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