



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MANOLO SALAZAR

W88360

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **February 9, 2023**

DATE OF DECISION: **April 10, 2023**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 22, 2006, after a jury trial in Suffolk County Superior Court, Mr. Salazar was convicted of first degree murder in the death of Carlos Cruz and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On appeal, the Supreme Judicial Court vacated the first-degree murder conviction and remanded the matter to Superior Court for sentencing on a charge of second-degree murder.¹ On February 22, 2019, in Suffolk County Superior Court, a life sentence with the possibility of parole was imposed.

Mr. Salazar appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on February 9, 2023. He was represented by student attorneys from Harvard University Law School. Mr. Salazar was denied parole after his 2020 initial hearing.

The entire video recording of Mr. Salazar's February 9, 2023, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of 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 written submissions to the Board, we conclude that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.²

¹ *Commonwealth v. Salazar*, 481 Mass. 105, 112 N.E.2d 781 (2018).

² One Board member voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

The Board is of the opinion that Manolo Salazar has demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Reserve to ICE detainer. On January 31, 2005, 39-year-old Mr. Salazar stabbed his 41-year-old roommate Carlos Cruz to death in Dorchester. Mr. Salazar lives with alcoholism and has a serious history of violence when intoxicated. He was intoxicated at the time of offense. He has been sober since the murder and has attended AA/NA twice per week for eighteen years. He has completed multiple rehabilitative programs to include Restorative Justice, Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and is enrolled in Alternatives to Violence. He has maintained employment throughout his incarceration and has incurred only one disciplinary infraction. Mr. Salazar has significant family support and has prepared for reentry, even in the event of deportation to his native Guatemala.

The applicable standard used by the Board to assess a candidate for parole is: "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." 120 C.M.R. 300.04. In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Salazar's institutional behavior, as well as his participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of his incarceration. The Board has also considered a risk and needs assessment and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Salazar's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Salazar's case, the Board is of the opinion that Manolo Salazar is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to ICE detainer; Approved home plan before release if not deported; Waive work for two weeks; Curfew – Must be at home between 10pm and 6am; ELMO-electronic monitoring; 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; Counseling for adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times/week; Must provide MA home plan.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

April 10, 2023
Date