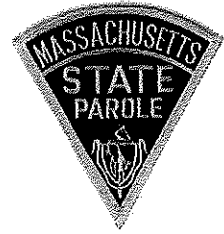


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MANUEL ALARCON
W55764

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 15, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: July 5, 2022

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On January 18, 1994, in Middlesex Superior Court, Manuel Alarcon pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of 32-year-old Bechara Alam and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On the same date, he also pleaded guilty to armed robbery and possession of a firearm. He received a sentence of 15 to 20 years and 3 to 5 years, respectively. All sentences were ordered to run concurrently with one another.

On July 28, 2006, in Norfolk Superior Court, Mr. Alarcon was sentenced to one year to one year and one day for possession to distribute a Class A substance. This sentence was ordered to be served consecutive to the life sentence.¹ On September 3, 2008, in Norfolk Superior Court, Mr. Alarcon was convicted of possession of a Class A substance (subsequent offense) and was sentenced to a term of 3 to 4 years concurrent with his 2006 sentence. Both offenses were committed while Mr. Alarcon was incarcerated.

Mr. Alarcon appeared before the Parole Board for a review hearing on March 15, 2022. He was not represented by counsel. This was Mr. Alarcon's fifth appearance before the Board having been denied in 2008, 2013, 2018 and 2020. Mr. Alarcon postponed his 2015 hearing. The entire video recording of Mr. Alarcon's March 15, 2022, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

¹ Pursuant to *Dinkins & another v. Massachusetts Parole Board*, 486 Mass. 605 (2021), the Parole Board will aggregate parole-eligible life sentences with consecutive determinate sentences for purposes of determining a single parole eligibility date.

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 by a unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole.

Reserve to a Long-Term Residential Treatment Program – Gavin House after 12 months in lower security. Mr. Alarcon has been incarcerated for approximately 29 years for the murder of Bechara Alam. He renounced his security threat group affiliation in recent years. He completed programming to include Correctional Recovery Academy. Both of these accomplishments were noted in his hearing as being significant to the Board's determination of his parole suitability. He has maintained a positive adjustment and has been sober since 2016. The Board agrees with Mr. Alarcon that he would benefit from a stepdown to lower security before the release to assist in his reentry. He has invested in mental health treatment and participates in monthly counseling sessions. He appears insightful about his need for continued treatment.

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."

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. Alarcon'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. Alarcon's risk of recidivism. After applying this appropriately high standard to the circumstances of Mr. Alarcon's case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Alarcon is rehabilitated and merits parole at this time.

Special Conditions: Reserve to Gavin House; Waive work for program or two weeks; Curfew must be at home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.; ELMO-electronic monitoring; Must take prescribed medication; 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 counseling for adjustment/transition; AA/NA at least 3 times/week.

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

/s/ Pamela Murphy p.p.
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

7/5/22
Date