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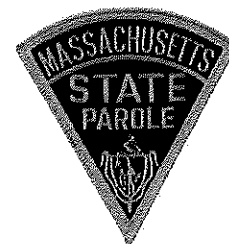
*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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Tina M. Hurley  
Chair

Lian Hogan  
Executive Director

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**MARIO GONZALEZ**  
**W96938**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** January 7, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** April 7, 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 an ICE Detainer<sup>1</sup>.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On August 5, 2010, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Mario Gonzalez was convicted of murder in the first degree for the death of Luz Forty. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Following an appeal, Mr. Gonzalez's conviction was reduced to second-degree murder, thereby giving him the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2024. On January 7, 2025, Mario Gonzalez appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by counsel. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mario Gonzalez's January 7, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On February 14, 2009, 29-year-old Mario Gonzalez, his girlfriend, Luz Forty, and her mother celebrated Valentine's Day together at a local bar. At approximately 1 a.m., the parties got into a cab. Mr. Gonzalez and Ms. Forty had the driver drop off Ms. Forty's mother before taking them to Mr. Gonzalez's Boston apartment. At approximately 3:15 a.m., Mr. Gonzalez called 911 and reported that an unknown person had entered his apartment and stabbed his wife. When police and EMTs arrived minutes later, they found Ms. Forty lying on a bed, bleeding heavily from six stab wounds to her shoulders and chest. While she was being rushed to the hospital with life-threatening injuries, Ms. Forty advised that Mr. Gonzalez was her assailant. Hours later, she died from her injuries.

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<sup>1</sup> Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.

Upon questioning, Mr. Gonzalez reported that he had arrived home from drinking at a bar to find his front door open and Ms. Forty lying on the bed in a pool of blood. He stated that Ms. Forty had told him that someone had come into the house, demanded money, and stabbed her. When asked about an injury to his face, Mr. Gonzalez claimed it was a result of a fight that he had been in three days earlier. Mr. Gonzalez was eventually taken to the police station and placed in a holding cell. From inside the cell, Mr. Gonzalez told an officer that he "was the one that got hit with a beer bottle in the face." The officer then asked Mr. Gonzalez what really happened, and Mr. Gonzalez stated that when he got home from the bar, he got in a fight with Ms. Forty about his drinking. The argument then escalated, and Ms. Forty hit him in the face with a beer bottle, pulled out a folding knife, and then charged at him. Mr. Gonzalez claimed that he twisted the knife away from Ms. Forty and then stabbed her in the back several times.

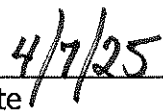
**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and 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:** Mr. Gonzalez has served 16 years of a life sentence for the murder of Luz Forty. He previously received a 1-year set back due to a split vote. Following his 2024 hearing, the Board recommended that Mr. Gonzalez participate in additional rehabilitative programming, including Domestic Violence programming. He has completed the Board's recommendations by participating in seven programs, including one for Domestic Violence. He has had a very positive institutional adjustment with only one disciplinary report. Mr. Gonzalez is also a low risk for recidivism based on his LS/CMI assessment. He has remained sober throughout his incarceration and identified resources for ongoing progress in this area. Mr. Gonzalez has demonstrated employment skills and supports in both the United States and Guatemala. The Board considered testimony from Ms. Forty's sister and Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Erin Knight. The Board concludes that Mario Gonzalez has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Approve home plan before release if not deported; Release to other authority ICE Detainer; Waive work for 2 weeks; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; 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)'s family; No contact with victim(s); Must have mental health counseling for transition; AA at least 3 times per week.

*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