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Tonomey A. Coleman  
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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**OSCAR ROSA**  
**W91542**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing/Resolve Action Pending

**DATE OF HEARING:** February 1, 2024

**DATE OF DECISION:** July 9, 2025

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, Tina M. Hurley,<sup>1</sup> James Kelcourse<sup>2</sup>

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On February 19, 2008, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Oscar Rosa was convicted of murder in the second-degree for the death of Craig Viera. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2022.<sup>3</sup> On February 1, 2024, Oscar Rosa appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Debra Beard-Bader. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Rosa's February 1, 2024, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On November 26, 20-year-old Oscar Rosa, stabbed and killed 32-year-old Craig Viera in Boston, MA. On that date, Mr. Rosa entered the Embassy Nightclub in Boston with several friends. However, they were asked to leave the premises by security personnel due to their behavior at the establishment. Craig Viera, a security officer at the Embassy Nightclub, spoke with Mr. Rosa's group outside the establishment and attempted to deescalate the situation. Mr. Rosa proceeded to stab Mr. Viera and then flee the scene with a bloody knife, which was later recovered. Mr. Viera was treated in the hospital for a stab wound in the abdomen. Although he was discharged to his home within several days of the incident,

<sup>1</sup> Chair Hurley participated in the vote on this matter prior to her departure from the Board.

<sup>2</sup> Acting Chair Coleman was not present for the hearing, but he reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

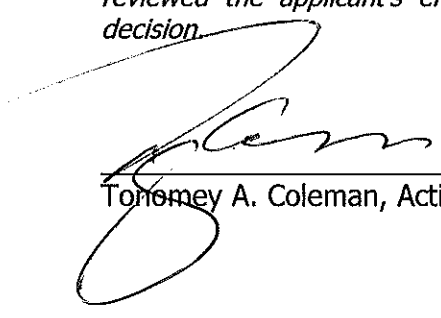
<sup>3</sup> Mr. Rosa postponed his 2021 hearing, and his 2024 was voted action pending.

Mr. Viera died due to complications from his injuries on December 8, 2006. After his death, Mr. Rosa (who had already been charged with assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and released on bail) was indicted for murder and arraigned in Suffolk Superior Court on February 8, 2007.

**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:** The Board originally voted action pending on this matter in order for an evaluation to take place to address Mr. Rosa's need areas in an appropriate re-entry plan. Mr. Rosa, while engaging in rehabilitative programming, has continued to struggle with multiple disciplinary reports, including substance misuse and concealing a fight. Given his struggles within the carceral setting and, after a review of the evaluations submitted by counsel in March 2025, the Board finds that Mr. Rosa does not yet meet the legal standard for parole. Mr. Rosa is encouraged to remain disciplinary report free, address his substance misuse, and continue to engage in programming. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Oscar Rosa has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board heard testimony from Mr. Rosa's mother and a cousin in support of parole. The Board also heard testimony from Mr. Viera's mother and two friends, as well as Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Lynn Feigenbaum, in opposition to parole.

*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.*



Toromey A. Coleman, Acting Chair

Date

7/9/25