

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



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**PABLO CARAMBOT
W91269**

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 13, 2021

DATE OF DECISION: January 6, 2022

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

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 unanimous vote that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in four years from the date of the hearing.

I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On January 7, 2008, in Hampden Superior Court, Pablo Carambot pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Young Man Kim. On that same day, Mr. Carambot also pleaded guilty to one count of armed robbery and one count of unlawful possession of a firearm. Mr. Carambot was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole for the murder of Mr. Kim. He received a concurrent sentence of 10-15 years in state prison for the armed robbery conviction, as well as a concurrent sentence of 3-5 years in state prison for unlawful possession of a firearm.

On November 21, 2005, 20-year-old Pablo Carambot entered Hair Plus Beauty Supplies in Springfield with the intent to commit an armed robbery. Accompanied by his co-defendant Rodolfo Melendez, the men began to speak with Young Man Kim, an employee of the store. During the conversation, Mr. Carambot pulled out a firearm and pointed it at Mr. Kim. Mr. Kim then threw an object at Mr. Carambot, and Mr. Carambot proceeded to fire one shot at Mr. Kim.

The bullet struck Mr. Kim, and Mr. Carambot and Mr. Melendez fled the store. Mr. Kim was transported to a nearby hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

In addition, responding officers noted that a tray appeared to be missing from a jewelry case in the store. Palm prints belonging to Rodolfo Melendez were recovered at the scene. Officers also received information from a witness that Mr. Carambot confessed to shooting the victim.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON MAY 13, 2021

Pablo Carambot, now 36-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on May 13, 2021, for an initial parole hearing with the assistance of a Spanish interpreter. He was not represented by counsel. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Carambot apologized for the murder of Mr. Kim and asked for forgiveness from the victim's family. He characterized his actions as "the worst mistake" of his life. Mr. Carambot reported that he grew up in Puerto Rico. He moved to the United States with his siblings at age 16. Although Mr. Carambot described his family life as stable, he acknowledged poor peer influences in his early teen years. He began to use marijuana almost daily, admitting that he would frequently commit break-ins and robberies to fund his drug habit. Mr. Carambot stated that his drug use expanded to cocaine, prescription pills (such as Percocet), and heroin. He experienced a period of sobriety after moving to the United States, but subsequently relapsed. Mr. Carambot reported that, at the time of the governing offense, he was using 15 to 20 Percocet pills a day.

When the Board questioned him as to the governing offense, Mr. Carambot claimed that Mr. Melendez had initially conceived the idea. He admitted, however, that both he and Mr. Melendez entered the store with the intent to commit a robbery. At the time they entered, Young Man Kim was speaking with several people. Mr. Carambot attempted to speak with Mr. Kim, while his co-defendant attempted to open a jewelry case. When Mr. Kim noticed Mr. Melendez's attempt to remove items from the case, he pulled out a baseball bat and began to beat him. Mr. Carambot yelled at Mr. Kim to stop hitting Mr. Melendez, but Mr. Kim then began to approach him (Mr. Carambot) with the bat. Mr. Carambot removed his gun and told Mr. Kim to stop, but Mr. Kim struck him twice in the arm with the bat. Mr. Carambot claimed that he shot Mr. Kim (once) before Mr. Kim could hit him a third time. He and Mr. Melendez then fled the scene. Mr. Carambot discarded the firearm in the Connecticut River and returned to his home. Mr. Carambot acknowledged that he disclosed his involvement to other inmates, while in custody on an unrelated case.

Mr. Carambot has had a poor institutional adjustment, accumulating approximately 46 disciplinary reports. Some of his disciplinary reports involve assaultive conduct and weapons possession. In addition, he incurred separate criminal charges in custody for introducing drugs into the facility in both 2016 and 2018. Mr. Carambot admitted that he both consumed and sold the drugs that he brought into the facility. When the Board inquired about his association with a security threat group, Mr. Carambot claimed that he joined the group during a prior period of incarceration in Puerto Rico. The Department of Correction classifies Mr. Carambot as an active member of the group.

Upon inquiry as to his substance use, Mr. Carambot admitted that he has used drugs and homemade alcoholic beverages while incarcerated. He received a disciplinary report for homebrew in September 2019. Mr. Carambot reported that, at the time of this hearing, he has maintained his sobriety for approximately two years. Nonetheless, he acknowledged his lengthy history of substance use, as well as the role that it played in the governing offense. The Board noted that Mr. Carambot has participated in some programs, including the Secure Adjustment Program and Violence Reduction. He is currently enrolled in the Correctional Recovery Academy, after three previous failures to complete the program. Mr. Carambot has

not yet obtained a GED. The Board encourages Mr. Carambot to continue to pursue additional programming efforts.

The Board considered testimony in support of parole from several of Mr. Carambot's family members.

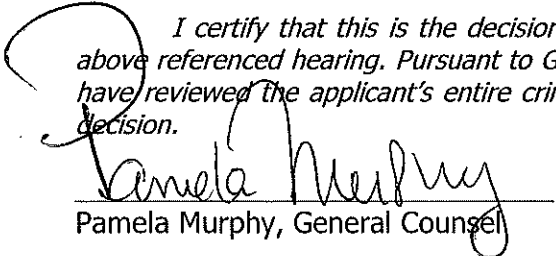
III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Pablo Carambot has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Carambot was before the Board for his initial hearing. Mr. Carambot shot and killed 64-year-old victim Young Man Kim during an armed robbery. He has done very little work up to this point and needs to engage in significant programming. To date, Mr. Carambot has only completed two programs and is in the Correctional Recovery Academy for the fourth time. He has had an overall problematic adjustment, as evidenced by two convictions for drug related offenses in 2016 and 2018. He indicated he has only been sober for two years. Mr. Carambot has also incurred Security Threat Group related disciplinary infractions. It is recommended that he pursue renunciation through IPS.

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. Carambot'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. Carambot's risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Carambot's case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Pablo Carambot is not rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Carambot's next appearance before the Board will take place in four years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Carmabot to continue working toward his full rehabilitation.

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.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

1/6/2022
Date