

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence M. Reidy
Secretary

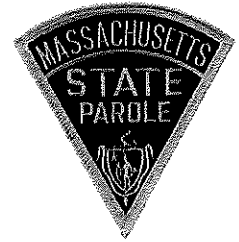
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4599



Tina M. Hurley
Chair

Daniel Nakamoto
Acting Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

PEDRO ORTIZ
W96528

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: November 14, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: January 4, 2024

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina M. Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse

VOTE: Parole is granted to LTRP after 6 months in lower security and completion of CRA.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On May 24, 2010, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Pedro Ortiz was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Terrance Jacobs. Mr. Ortiz was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On November 14, 2023, Mr. Ortiz appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by student attorneys Kaitlynn Poland and Katherine Wilson from the Northeastern University School of Law, who were supervised by Attorney Patricia Garin. The Board's decision fully incorporates, by reference, the entire video recording of Mr. Ortiz's November 14, 2023 hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 22, 2007, 27-year-old Pedro Ortiz was socializing near the intersection of Wilcock Street and Blue Hill Avenue in Dorchester. Amongst the group were Mr. Ortiz's co-defendants Terrance Pabon, Markeese Mitchell, and Paul Goode. At some point that evening, a decision was made that there would be a "one-on-one" fight. Arrangements were made to get 16-year-old Terrance Jacobs to Wilcock Street, so this fight could happen. Mr. Ortiz's group wanted to "settle the score" for a stabbing that Mr. Jacobs had allegedly perpetrated on one of their friends several months earlier.

¹ One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in two years.

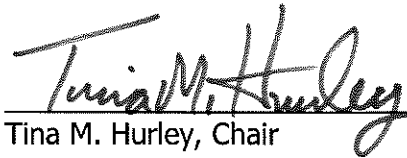
Terrance Jacobs arrived on Wilcock Street along with multiple other people. The two groups became engaged in an argument that quickly escalated. The defendants began to punch Mr. Jacobs. One of Mr. Jacobs' friends brandished a firearm and fired multiple shots. The shots did not strike anyone but caused both groups to disperse. When Mr. Jacobs began running, Mr. Ortiz and his co-defendants chased after Mr. Jacobs and stabbed him over twenty times. Mr. Jacobs died at the hospital a short time later due to his injuries.

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.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This is Mr. Ortiz's first appearance before the Board. Mr. Ortiz expressed remorse for his actions and acknowledged his role in this murder. His disciplinary history is minimal, and his last disciplinary report was 12 years ago. Mr. Ortiz has taken courses through Mt. Wachusett Community College. He has engaged in rehabilitative programming, including the Restorative Justice Retreat and Alternatives to Violence. He has done vocational programming, including the barber program. Mr. Ortiz presented a comprehensive re-entry plan which reflected an understanding of the community supports which will assist him with his re-entry, and he specifically requested an opportunity to complete CRA before his return to the community. Mr. Ortiz has significant family and community support. Family and community supporters of Mr. Ortiz spoke in support of parole, including community re-entry service providers. The victim's family spoke in opposition to parole. ADA Montez Haywood of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office also spoke in opposition to parole.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Restrict work for LTRP; Curfew - must be at home between 10PM and 6AM at P.O.'s discretion; Electronic monitoring at P.O.'s discretion; 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 or association with gangs/gang activities; No contact with victim(s) family; Must have mental health counseling for depression and support in sustaining abstinence from alcohol; Attend Long Term Residential Treatment Program; Mandatory must sign all authorizations of release of information forms.

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

1/4/24
Date