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Tina M. Hurley
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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RAMON DEJESUS
W65419

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 11, 2023

DATE OF DECISION: November 6, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, James Kelcourse

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On October 19, 1998, in Suffolk Superior Court, Ramon DeJesus pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Elizabeth Cora. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On January 4, 1996, Ramon DeJesus (age 45) went to the apartment where his estranged wife, Elizabeth Cora (age 26), was staying with their children. While Ms. Cora was out for the evening, Mr. DeJesus engaged in drinking and drug use. When she returned to the apartment, at around 4 a.m. on January 5, an argument ensued between them. Mr. DeJesus then left the apartment. He returned several hours later and, again, argued with Ms. Cora. He chased Ms. Cora into a bedroom and shot her twice, once in the right temple and once in the left breast. Two of their children, a four-year-old and a three-year-old, witnessed the murder. After Mr. DeJesus fled the apartment, he was confronted by police officers who were responding to a call that shots had been fired. Police officers witnessed Mr. DeJesus throw a gun across the street. After he was placed in custody, Mr. DeJesus voluntarily made the statement, "I shot the bitch. I hope the bitch is dead." Ms. Cora had an active restraining order against Mr. DeJesus at the time of the murder.

PAROLE HEARING: Mr. DeJesus appeared before the Board on July 11, 2023, for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Yefim Luvish. Mr. DeJesus was denied parole following prior hearings in 2013 and 2020. The entire video recording of Mr. DeJesus' July 11, 2023 hearing is fully incorporated by reference into the Board's Decision.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: 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.

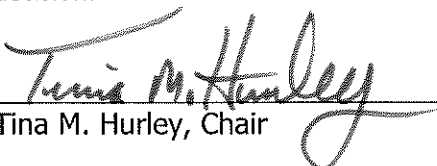
After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of offense, criminal record, institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing or in written submissions to the Board, we conclude by unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole. Parole reserve to BHN Connections.

In forming this opinion, the Board has taken into consideration Mr. DeJesus' 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. DeJesus' risk of recidivism. After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. DeJesus' case, the Board is of the opinion that Mr. DeJesus is rehabilitated and, therefore, merits parole at this time, subject to special conditions.

Candidate is 73 years old. He has been incarcerated for 27 years. He has maintained his sobriety for those 27 years. He attends AA/NA for the last 10 years. He graduated from ERTU. He has demonstrated insight into the need for being medication compliant. Re-entry plan to meet mental health needs. The benefits of additional programming are limited due to his intellectual and mental health disabilities. He has demonstrated positive institutional adjustment. He has a significant support system and re-entry plan addresses his specific needs.

Special Conditions: Parole reserve to BHN Connections; Waive work for program/disability; Curfew at Parole Officer's discretion; Electronic monitoring at Parole Officer's discretion; 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; Counseling for schizoaffective, intellectual disabilities; Long term residential program; AA at least 3 times a 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

11/06/2023

Date