

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**RICARDO REYES
W80505**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 23, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: May 15, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin,¹ Tina M. Hurley, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 1 year from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 21, 2002, in Essex Superior Court, Ricardo Reyes pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree in the death of Juan Vasquez. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he pleaded guilty to armed robbery and received a concurrent 10 to 12 year sentence. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2022. On January 23, 2025, Richardo Reyes appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Shannon Lopez. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Ricardo Reyes' January 23, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On, December 30, 1997, 20-year-old Ricardo Reyes, along with his co-defendant, Israel Perez, robbed and killed 30-year-old Juan Vasquez, a taxicab driver in Methuen. The case was unsolved for two and a half years until investigations led to Mr. Reyes and Mr. Perez. They both made statements to police suggesting the following: On December 30, 1997, Mr. Perez and Mr. Reyes had a conversation about needing money. They hailed a cab, armed with a .22 caliber weapon, with the intent of robbing the driver. They pointed the gun at the back of Mr. Vasquez's head and demanded his money. During the robbery, Mr. Perez

¹ Board Member Coughlin was not present for the hearing, but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

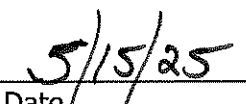
shot Mr. Vasquez in the back of the head. The two men fled the taxi and were picked up by friends. They later went to a local bar and sold the murder weapon.

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. Reyes has been incarcerated for over 25 years. During that period of time, he has engaged in minimal programming. He has incurred over 30 disciplinary reports with 4 since his last hearing and the most recent incident in October 2024. Mr. Reyes has a history of medication non-compliance and has had eight transfers to Bridgewater Hospital. The Board notes that Mr. Reyes has been focusing on his mental health since his last hearing. The Board hopes that Mr. Reyes continue his rehabilitation by engaging in programming and remaining disciplinary report-free. The Board considered testimony from Essex County Assistant District Attorney Emily Mello, who spoke in opposition to parole. The Board concludes that Mr. Reyes has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

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