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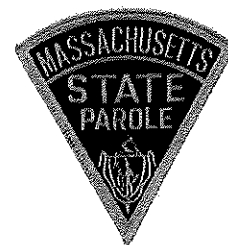
*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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Tina M. Hurley  
Chair

Lian Hogan  
Executive Director

**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**RICHARD FIGUEROA**  
**W95491**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** November 26, 2024

**DATE OF DECISION:** April 3, 2025

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

**VOTE:** Parole is granted to Long-Term Residential Program or CRJ after 90 days in lower security.<sup>1</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On November 25, 2009, following a jury trial in Essex Superior Court, Richard Figueroa was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Luis Alcantara. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. After an appeal, Mr. Figueroa's first-degree sentence was reduced to second degree murder with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2022. On November 26, 2024, Richard Figueroa appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Northeastern Prisoner's Rights Clinic student attorneys Jaclyn O'Neil and Martha Bono under the supervision of Attorney Patricia Gearin. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Richard Figueroa November 26, 2024, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On January 31, 2008, 41-year-old Richard Figueroa shot and killed 28-year-old Luis Alcantara in Lawrence. Mr. Alcantara owed Richard Figueroa \$1,300 for marijuana that he purchased from him. Richard Figueroa owed Mr. Alcantara \$1,050 from another buyer, who did not pay in full. So, Richard Figueroa told Mr. Alcantara that they should "call it even." Mr. Alcantara refused. Richard Figueroa paid the victim \$500, and the two men argued over the debt several times prior to the shooting.

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<sup>1</sup> Two Board members voted action pending outcome of March 5, 2025 disciplinary report.

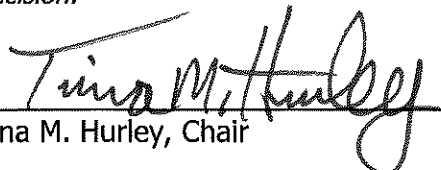
On the evening of the killing, a taxicab driver was dispatched to a restaurant in Lawrence. Richard Figueroa entered the taxicab, said he was drunk, and asked to be taken to a Lawrence bar. As he was being dropped off, Mr. Figueroa told the driver that he was going to call back for a ride in a few minutes. Mr. Figueroa did not enter the bar where he was dropped off but, instead, at approximately 9:30 p.m., entered a nearby restaurant and said either "look" or "look what I got for you." With a .357 caliber revolver, Mr. Figueroa fired two or three shots at Mr. Alcantara. The bullets struck the victim, who was seated at a table, in the leg and chest, killing him. Mr. Figueroa then fled the restaurant.

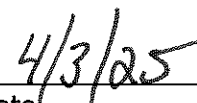
**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and 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:** This is Mr. Figueroa's 2<sup>nd</sup> appearance before the Board. He was 41-years-old at the time of the offense. He has addressed the Board's concerns within the last 2 years since his last appearance before the Board. He has remained disciplinary report free. He has been employed as both a laundry worker and a maintenance worker. He has been addressing his alcohol misuse by attending AA meetings. He reports having been waitlisted for Restorative Justice. Mr. Figueroa expressed remorse for his actions. He has strong family supports. The Board finds that Mr. Figueroa has increased his commitment to rehabilitation through work and presents with insight into the consequences of his actions. The Board notes Mr. Figueroa received a disciplinary report in March 2025, but given the circumstances the Board finds the release of Mr. Figueroa is not incompatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Long-Term Residential Program or CRJ at least 90 days; Waive work for 2 weeks; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; 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; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; AA at least 3 times/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

  
Date