

Maura Healey
Governor

Kim Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence 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

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RICHARD FIGUEROA

W95491

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: November 3, 2022

DATE OF DECISION: January 19, 2023

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Tina Hurley, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Dr. Maryanne Galvin, James Kelcourse, Colette Santa

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 25, 2009, after a jury trial in Essex Superior Court, Mr. Figueroa was found guilty of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Luis Alcantara and 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.

Mr. Figueroa appeared before the Parole Board for an initial hearing on November 3, 2022. He was represented by Attorney John Rull. The entire video recording of Mr. Figueroa's November 3, 2022, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

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.

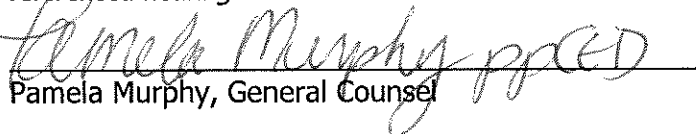
The Board is of the opinion that Richard Figueroa has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. On January 31, 2008, 41-year-old Mr. Figueroa shot and killed 28-year-old Luis Alcantara. Mr. Figueroa accepts responsibility for the offense and should continue working toward insight and victim empathy. The Board encourages him to pursue programs like Restorative Justice to gain empathy. The Board commends him for the programming he has completed thus far. The Board would like to see him remain disciplinary report-free, as the Board is troubled by his infractions as recently as 2020. The Board encourages him to obtain his GED and remain employed in the institution.

Given Mr. Figueroa's intoxication at the time of the murder, he should engage in regular AA meetings in the institution.

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

Mr. Figueroa's next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages him to continue working towards his full rehabilitation.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.


Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

1/19/23
Date