



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road  
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Daniel Bennett  
Secretary

Telephone # (508) 650-4500  
Facsimile # (508) 650-4599

Paul Treseler  
Chairperson

Michael J. Callahan  
Executive Director

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

SAMUEL QUINONES

W69812

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: November 5, 2015

DATE OF DECISION: January 21, 2016

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Paul M. Treseler, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sheila Dupre, Tonomey Coleman, Ina Howard-Hogan, Tina Hurley, Lucy Soto-Abbe.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the inmate's age 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. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in five years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On August 7, 2001, in Worcester Superior Court, Samuel Quinones pled guilty to the second degree murder of Maria Perez. Subsequently he was sentenced to a term of life in prison with the possibility of parole for the murder of Ms. Perez. Mr. Quinones also pled guilty to the violation of a restraining order Ms. Perez had obtained against him, prior to her death. Mr. Quinones was sentenced to a concurrent term of 2 1/2 years in the house of correction for this conviction. Mr. Quinones is currently 54 years old.

On April 27, 2000 at approximately 2:30 PM Mr. Quinones was hand served with a restraining order by the Worcester Police Department, ordering him to stay away from his wife, Ms. Perez. The affidavit attached to the restraining order alleged Mr. Quinones had verbally and physically abused Ms. Perez in the past. Mr. Quinones then went to an apartment in

Worcester where he knew Ms. Perez was staying. Mr. Quinones asked Ms. Perez to accompany him to her apartment so he could retrieve some personal items. At approximately 7 PM, Ms. Perez's son went to her apartment to check on her. The door to Ms. Perez's apartment was locked and blocked by the couch. After gaining entry to the apartment, Ms. Perez's son found Mr. Quinones and Ms. Perez on the floor, covered in blood. Subsequent investigation revealed Ms. Perez's cause of death to be asphyxia by strangulation. Multiple knife wounds, lacerations, abrasions and contusions were also found on Ms. Perez's body. Mr. Quinones was transported to the hospital with multiple self-inflicted lacerations to his neck, upper extremities and abdomen.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON NOVEMBER 5, 2015**

Mr. Quinones came before the Parole Board on November 5, 2015 for an initial hearing. Mr. Quinones was represented by Student Attorneys Serena Wu and Peyton Lee during his appearance before the Board.

Mr. Quinones gave an opening statement to the Board, in which he apologized for his actions. During the course of the hearing and in a written submission to the Board, Mr. Quinones spoke about the day of the murder. According to Mr. Quinones, on the day of Ms. Perez's murder, he was served with a restraining order by the police. The officers who served him with the order also took his apartment keys away from him. Mr. Quinones decided to contest the order in court, but was unable to because the courthouse was closed by the time he arrived. Mr. Quinones then left the courthouse and went straight to the home of Ms. Perez's mother, where he knew Ms. Perez was staying. Ms. Perez agreed to accompany Mr. Perez to their apartment, so he could retrieve some personal items.

According to Mr. Quinones, he and Ms. Perez started to argue shortly after they arrived at the apartment. Mr. Quinones screamed at Ms. Perez after she told him he had to leave the apartment. Ms. Perez then picked up a knife and started swinging it back and forth at him. According to Mr. Quinones, he and Ms. Perez struggled for control of the knife when it fell onto the ground. Mr. Quinones then hit Ms. Perez in the head with a clothing iron, as she attempted to pick the knife up. He then wrapped the extension cord of the iron around Ms. Perez's neck and strangled her. Afterwards, Mr. Quinones picked up the knife and slashed Ms. Perez's throat multiple times. Mr. Quinones then attempted suicide, first by slashing his throat with a knife he had retrieved from the kitchen and then by overdosing on pills.

When questioned by the Board, Mr. Quinones addressed the nature of his relationship with Ms. Perez. Mr. Quinones admitted to verbally and physically abusing Ms. Perez prior to murdering her. Mr. Quinones cited the effects of childhood abuse and his issues with anger management as some of the major factors contributing to the murder of Ms. Perez. He also acknowledged that he had attempted to exercise control over Ms. Perez's life.

Mr. Quinones expressed to the Board that he has progressed in his rehabilitation by engaging in programming that has addressed his emotional problems and issues with anger management. Mr. Quinones told the Board that programs such as Jericho Circle, Violence Reduction, and Emotional Awareness have taught him to control his emotions and to take responsibility for his own actions. He has also participated in Alcoholics Anonymous/Narcotics Anonymous to address his substance abuse problem.

In addition to Mr. Quinones, the Board also received live testimony from witnesses in opposition to Mr. Quinones' petition for parole, including the testimony of a representative of the Worcester County District Attorney's Office.

### III. DECISION

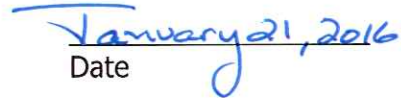
The Board is of the opinion that Mr. Quinones has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board believes a longer period of positive institutional adjustment and programming would be beneficial to Mr. Quinones' rehabilitation.

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. Quinones' 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 whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize Mr. Quinones' risk of recidivism.

After applying this standard to the circumstances of Mr. Quinones' case, the Board is of the unanimous opinion that Mr. Quinones is not yet rehabilitated and therefore does not merit parole at this time. Mr. Quinones' next appearance before the Board will take place in five years from the date of the initial hearing related to this decision. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Quinones 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. 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.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Callahan, Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date