

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

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Terrence Reidy  
Acting Secretary

Gloriann Moroney  
Chair

Kevin Keefe  
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

SAMUEL QUINONES  
W69812

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing  
**DATE OF HEARING:** December 8, 2020  
**DATE OF DECISION:** September 28, 2021

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Gloriann Moroney,<sup>1</sup>Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Karen McCarthy, Colette Santa<sup>2</sup>

**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 that the inmate is not a suitable candidate for parole.<sup>3</sup> Parole is denied with a review in two years from the date of the hearing.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On August 7, 2001, in Worcester County Superior Court, Samuel Quinones pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of his wife, 34-year-old Maria Perez. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Quinones also pleaded guilty to the violation of a restraining order that Ms. Perez had obtained against him, for which he received a concurrent term of 2 and 1/2 years in a House of Correction.

On April 27, 2000, at approximately 2:30 p.m., Samuel Quinones (age 39) was hand-served with a restraining order by the Worcester Police Department, prohibiting contact with his wife Maria Perez. The affidavit attached to the restraining order alleged that Mr. Quinones had verbally and physically abused Ms. Perez in the past. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Quinones went to an apartment in Worcester, where he knew that Ms. Perez was staying. He then asked her to

<sup>1</sup> Chair Gloriann Moroney was not present for the hearing, but participated in the vote.  
<sup>2</sup> Board Member Colette Santa was not present for the hearing, but participated in the vote.  
<sup>3</sup> Two Board Members voted to grant parole to a long-term residential program after 12 months in lower security.

accompany him to her apartment, so that he could retrieve some personal items. At approximately 7:00 p.m., Ms. Perez's son went to her apartment to check on her. He found the door locked and blocked by a couch. After gaining entry, Ms. Perez's son found Mr. Quinones and Ms. Perez on the floor, covered in blood. A 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 DECEMBER 8, 2020**

Samuel Quinones, now 60-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on December 8, 2020, for a review hearing.<sup>4</sup> He was not represented by counsel. Mr. Quinones was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2015. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Quinones apologized to Ms. Perez's family, stating that he was unable to do so at his original sentencing because he was a "coward." He explained that he is a more mature and remorseful man today than he was at the time of the murder. Mr. Quinones told the Board that he was physically abused as a child and exposed to domestic violence, which contributed to the anger and addiction issues plaguing him much of his life. He began abusing heroin at age 22 and survived two overdoses in the years leading up to the murder. The Board noted that Mr. Quinones is the father of four children; the older two he shares with a woman from a prior relationship and the younger two he shared with Ms. Perez. Mr. Quinones admitted to battering his partner from his prior relationship both physically and verbally, stating that he would often "slap her around" when he was angry. He disclosed that he continued this pattern of abuse in his relationship with Ms. Perez.

On the day of the murder, Mr. Quinones was served with a restraining order that prohibited him from having contact with Ms. Perez. Although he was not intoxicated, Mr. Quinones had consumed methadone that day, as well as heroin the day before. Despite the restraining order, Mr. Quinones met with Ms. Perez to gather some of his belongings. When the couple argued over where he would reside during the pendency of the order, Mr. Quinones said that Ms. Perez produced a knife to defend herself. After a brief struggle over the knife, he stabbed his wife repeatedly and then strangled her to death with the extension cord of an iron. Faced with what he had done, Mr. Quinones retrieved a second knife from the kitchen, inflicting injuries upon himself that required nearly a week of hospitalization. The couple's 14-year-old son discovered his parents before calling for help.

When the Board questioned him as to how his crime may have impacted the victim's family, Mr. Quinones replied that he "can't imagine," but knows that they still suffer today. He acknowledged that he was an abuser, who enjoyed controlling his partners. He has dedicated his rehabilitation to his anger issues, now understanding that he cannot "bottle things up." Although he has incurred one disciplinary report since his last hearing, the Board noted that Mr. Quinones has consistently worked as a janitor, attended AA/NA, and completed multiple programs. Mr. Quinones credited such programs as Jericho Circle, Emotional Awareness, CRA, and Restorative Justice with allowing him to discuss his crimes and receive input from others. The Board noted that Mr. Quinones would benefit from programs that (specifically) address domestic violence, so that he may fully appreciate his causative factors and lower his risk of reoffense.

A written statement submitted by Ms. Perez's family members was read during the hearing by a Victim Services Unit staff member. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Ms. Perez's family member and letters of opposition submitted by her family

---

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Quinones was assisted by a Spanish interpreter throughout the hearing.

members. The Board considered testimony from Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Michelle King, as well as a letter of opposition.

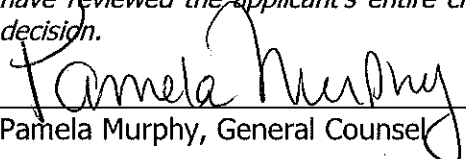
**III. DECISION**

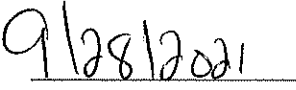
The Board is of the opinion that Samuel Quinones has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Quinones beat and strangled his wife, Maria Perez, prior to slashing her throat in April of 2000. The Board recognizes Mr. Quinones' rehabilitative progress since his last hearing. However, Mr. Quinones is encouraged to pursue additional treatment/programming in the areas of domestic violence, healthy relations, and victim empathy. In addition, Mr. Quinones should develop a stronger network of support in the community.

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 a risk and needs assessment and 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 opinion that Samuel Quinones is not rehabilitated and, therefore, does not merit parole at this time.

Mr. Quinones' next appearance before the Board will take place in two years from the date of this hearing. During the interim, the Board encourages Mr. Quinones to continue working toward 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.*

  
Pamela Murphy, General Counsel

  
Date