



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



PAROLE BOARD

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DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

VALDOMIRO GASPAR

W69313

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **June 13, 2019**

DATE OF DECISION: **May 27, 2020**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Gloriann Moroney, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sheila Dupre, Tina Hurley, Colette Santa

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. Parole is denied with a review scheduled in five years from the date of the hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On March 27, 2001, in Bristol Superior Court, Valdomiro Gaspar pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of Michele Gregory. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

On August 2, 1999, Valdomiro Gaspar, 58-years-old, murdered his girlfriend Michele Gregory (age 36), who resided with him in Fall River. On August 3, 1999, Fall River police officers found Ms. Gregory on the basement floor. She was lying on her stomach with a large amount of blood beneath her. She suffered from at least 11 stab wounds to her front and back, as well as defensive wounds on her arms.

One of Mr. Gaspar's daughters became worried when she had not seen or heard from Mr. Gaspar for a full day. After she visited the apartment and discovered Ms. Gregory, authorities were alerted and searched for him. Officers located him inside the men's room of a Fall River tavern with self-inflicted injuries to his head. While being treated at the scene, authorities overheard Mr. Gaspar state in broken English, "Yesterday I crazy, crazy, took knife and kill her." Mr. Gaspar continued speaking and said, "She had boyfriends, everybody, they told me she was no good, we suppose to get married, rings are getting our name, married on the sixteenth."

Mr. Gaspar was later transported to a hospital, where authorities questioned him about what happened. During questioning, Mr. Gaspar again made self-incriminating statements about killing Ms. Gregory. He stated in broken English that, "I crazy, crazy, took knife and kill her." He stated (in half Portuguese and half English) that Michele had a boyfriend in Taunton. He said, "I put red paint on lock; she would leave while I was sleep. I caught her and him last week in my house, he's lucky he ran away, or I'll kill him too." Mr. Gaspar admitted to authorities that he and Ms. Gregory had been arguing over her use of a telephone and his belief that she was not faithful to him. According to Mr. Gaspar, Ms. Gregory kicked him during the argument and he responded by stabbing her (several times) to death. He then left the apartment, taking the knife with him. He went to Portsmouth, Rhode Island and cleaned the knife. Mr. Gaspar then drove his truck between Fall River and Portsmouth and slept in his truck. On August 3, he went to a tavern in Fall River, where police found him. He had gone to the bathroom and tried to kill himself.

II. PAROLE HEARING ON JUNE 13, 2019

Valdomiro Gaspar, now 78-years-old, appeared before the Parole Board on June 13, 2019. He was not represented by counsel, but utilized the services of an interpreter. Mr. Gaspar was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2015. In his opening statement to the Board, Mr. Gaspar offered an apology to the family.

Mr. Gaspar provided the Board with an overview of the offense that is inconsistent with the facts of the Commonwealth. He adamantly denied any prior incidences of domestic violence with Ms. Gregory. Mr. Gaspar continues to refute that he had a pattern of abusing and controlling Ms. Gregory. Although he confessed to authorities at the time of his arrest, Mr. Gaspar claimed, during this hearing, that Ms. Gregory had the knife and he feared for his own safety. When questioned as to why he stabbed her in the back, Mr. Gaspar informed the Board that she was attempting to run away, but that she was not trying to flee from him. When pressed during the hearing, he was unable to provide the Board with a plausible explanation as to why Ms. Gregory had seven stab wounds on her chest and defensive wounds on her arms and hands, or as to why the power had been turned off. Even after 20 years, Mr. Gaspar continues to portray himself as the victim in the brutal murder of his girlfriend. He continues to minimize his criminal culpability in the death of Ms. Gregory.

The Board discussed Mr. Gaspar's institutional adjustment; he is currently incarcerated at MCI-Norfolk and employed in the maintenance department within the institution. Mr. Gaspar received five disciplinary infractions since his last hearing, only one of which resulted in a sanction. Mr. Gaspar testified about his lack of program involvement, which is confirmed by the department of Correction records. He is currently enrolled in English as a Second Language.

Although he signed up for the Spectrum program, Mr. Gaspar never attended. The Board informed Mr. Gaspar that he needed to engage in treatment and programming to address issues of anger, criminal thinking, lack of empathy, and violence. During the past 20 years of incarceration, there has been no indication of substance usage.

Mr. Gaspar had a few supporters in attendance at his hearing. The Board considered testimony in opposition for parole from three family members of Ms. Gregory. Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Michael Sheehan spoke in opposition to parole.

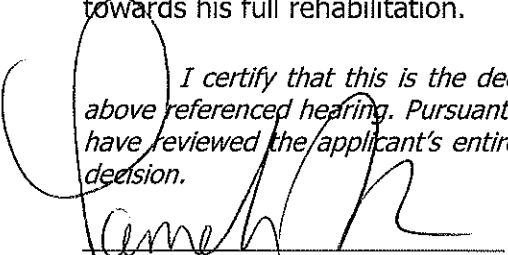
III. DECISION

The Board is of the opinion that Valdomiro Gaspar has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitative progress that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. Mr. Gaspar has served approximately 20 years for the brutal murder of Michele Gregory. He lacks insight and has yet to address his causative factors. He continues to place blame on the victim and has exhibited limited remorse. He has also failed to adhere to the recommendations of the Board.

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

Mr. Gaspar's next appearance before the Board will take place in five 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. 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

5/21/2020
Date