



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ANGEL RODRIGUEZ**

**W65749**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** August 23, 2011

**DATE OF DECISION:** April 12, 2012

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Cesar Archilla, John Bocon, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Paroled from this life sentence to serve from and after sentence of 9 to 20 years. The decision is unanimous.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

Papilon Ferreiras was shot to death on July 10, 1994 as he stood on Byers Street in Springfield. Members of the La Familia gang committed the murder as part of ongoing gang warfare with Los Solidos. Earlier on the same evening, members of Los Solidos shot three members of La Familia. Members of La Familia met and received orders from Lisandro Diaz, the gang's leader. Miguel Vasquez, Angel Rodriguez, and Scotty Ruiz were assigned to retaliate by searching for Los Solidos members in the area near High Street. Ruiz drove a stolen white Buick; Vasquez was in the front passenger seat armed with a handgun; Rodriguez was in the back seat with a rifle. They cruised High Street and located a member of Los Solidos; they did not fire after Vasquez noticed a man with a child near the intended target. Ruiz drove the Buick to nearby Byers Street. They drove by a group of young men standing near the street. Vasquez fired the handgun multiple times; Rodriguez fired the rifle. Mr. Ferreiras was struck once in the chest. A second victim, Jose Aguyo, was shot in the leg and recovered. Mr. Ferreiras was known as a leader in Los Solidos.

Rodriguez was charged and arrested two years after the crime. It appears that the cooperation of a co-defendant led to charges against Rodriguez. On December 16, 1998, he pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and assault with intent to murder (for the victim who was shot in the leg). For the assault with intent to murder, Rodriguez received 9 to 20 years, to be served after the life sentence for the murder of Mr. Ferreiras. Vasquez, who fired the handgun, and Lisandro Diaz, who ordered the shootings, were also convicted of second-degree murder. Scotty Ruiz, who drove the white Buick, served a 5 to 7 year sentence for conspiracy to murder.

Rodriguez was an active member of La Familia, and he has other criminal convictions (assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and possession of heroin) associated with his gang activity.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON AUGUST 23, 2011**

Angel Rodriguez appeared before the Parole Board on August 23, 2011 seeking parole from a life sentence. Parole, if granted, would not result in release but would allow the inmate to begin serving his next sentence of 9 to 20 years. The inmate candidly admitted to his reprehensible behavior as a gang member, including the murder of Mr. Ferreiras. He said that he believed he was shooting at a group of Los Solidos members, but he did not know for sure. He described remorse and regret for his actions. He stated that he left La Familia while he was held on bail pending trial. He stated that the decision to renounce was the beginning of his rehabilitation.

Through documents and testimony, Board members evaluated the inmate's institutional record. In fifteen years, he has only one disciplinary report (for fighting with an inmate in 2003). He began program involvement early in his incarceration and he has been consistently successful in completing the programs that the DOC recommended for his rehabilitation. His employment record has been consistent and productive. That the inmate has attained these accomplishments is more impressive because his from and after sentence makes it more difficult for him to move from maximum security institutions and puts him further down waiting lists for programs.

The inmate has put considerable efforts into religious programs. He spoke at length about his spiritual transformation and the important role religion has played in his efforts to reform.

No members of the public appeared in support or opposition. The Hampden County District Attorney submitted a letter in opposition.

## **III. DECISION**

Angel Rodriguez as a teenager was an active and violent member of La Familia. He faced years of work to reform his antisocial behavior. He has made remarkable progress. He speaks with insight and regret about the harm he caused. Unlike most inmates serving a life sentence for second-degree murder, he did not waste his early years in prison. Early on in his incarceration he withdrew from La Familia, got involved with religious activities, and sought whatever programs he could access. The effectiveness of his efforts to rehabilitate are shown in his disciplinary record; it is extraordinary for an inmate who committed a gang murder to make it through 15 years of prison with a single disciplinary report.

Rodriguez is not ready for release to the community, primarily because he needs to progress to a less restrictive prison setting and he needs to develop a support network in the community. He has, however, earned parole from his life sentence. He has 15 years of success in difficult prison environments. His rehabilitation has addressed his gang involvement and anger issues.

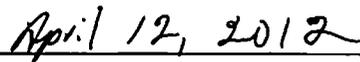
He has a long and difficult road ahead. He has nine years before he reaches parole eligibility on his next sentence. During that period of incarceration, any misconduct could be the basis for revoking this parole from the life sentence. This parole will permit the inmate to progress to a less restrictive setting, such as MCI-Norfolk, where he will have more opportunities for rehabilitation programs and self-help groups.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** These conditions become effective upon release. Long term treatment program of 6 months minimum; substance abuse evaluation at program with requirement to follow recommended treatment; no drugs or alcohol; curfew from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.; must maintain full time employment after completing program; no contact with victim's family.

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
Josh Wall, Chairman



\_\_\_\_\_  
Date