



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety



PAROLE BOARD

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**DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ROBERT GONZALEZ**

**W41083**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Revocation Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** October 7, 2014

**DATE OF DECISION:** December 4, 2014

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Ina Howard-Hogan, Tina Hurley, Josh Wall

**DECISION OF BOARD:** After careful consideration of all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying 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 a unanimous vote that the inmate is a suitable candidate for parole at this time. Parole is granted to New York via Interstate Compact after completion of six months in lower security.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On October 23, 1983, Robert Gonzalez, then age 24, and Bruce Wilborn, then age 20, lured the victim, Stanley Weinstock, age 54, to a parking lot in Springfield intending to kill him. Gonzalez and Wilborn, who were financially supported by Weinstock, had developed a romantic relationship and signed a pact pledging to murder the victim for financial gain. Wilborn had been named as a beneficiary to both Weinstock's life insurance proceeds and his will. Also, Gonzalez and Wilborn viewed Weinstock as a threat to their relationship. After Wilborn stabbed the victim more than 30 times to death, both he and Gonzalez took several steps to cover up their crime.

On January 23, 1985, in Hampden Superior Court, Gonzalez pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree and was sentenced to life imprisonment. On October 29, 1987, a related charge of conspiracy to commit murder was filed.

This is Gonzalez's sixth appearance before the Board. He was denied parole following his initial hearing in 1998. Following his 2001 review hearing, the Board granted him a reserve parole and he was released on parole on January 24, 2002. However, the Board revoked parole on October 28, 2002 for alcohol use and for lying to his parole officer. Gonzalez then had a review hearing in 2003 and the Board denied parole and set a three-year review date, due in part to his lack of truthfulness and his admitted falsification of information in his parole packet. The Board reviewed Gonzalez's suitability for parole again in 2005 and 2010, but denied parole with five-year and four-year reviews, respectively, out of continued concern for his lack of truthfulness.

## **II. PAROLE HEARING ON OCTOBER 7, 2014**

Gonzalez admitted that he knowingly lied to the police after the murder and that he was untruthful with the Board at previous parole hearings. Gonzalez said he addressed his issue of dishonesty by "working diligently" with a therapist. Since his last hearing in 2010, he has used his time in custody to rehabilitate himself through continued programming, which includes (among other items) obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Boston University, volunteering as a literacy tutor, and working in the trusted position of maintaining the gardens at the correctional facility.

Gonzalez said that, through therapy, he has come to realize that his issues stem from his lack of acceptance of his sexual orientation and attendant depression. He said he is now more accepting of himself and is currently taking medication to treat his depression.

Gonzalez requested to be paroled to New York to reside either with his brother in Long Island or at The Fortune Society, a residential program located near his brother's home. He had several supporters, including his brother, two nephews, and three friends. Four people testified in support of parole. Gonzalez was represented by Attorney John Rull. Hampden Assistant District Attorney Dianne Dillon spoke in opposition to parole.

## **III. DECISION**

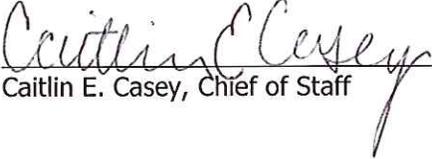
Robert Gonzalez ignored important requirements of community supervision with irresponsible conduct, which included lying to his parole officer. Since his return to custody, however, he has spent the last twelve years addressing his issue of dishonesty, through counseling and involvement in a host of rehabilitative and educational programming, in order to redirect his thinking and attitude towards more prosocial behavior. He has had no disciplinary issues since 2009. It is the view of this Board that Gonzalez has demonstrated that he now has the capacity to lead a productive and law abiding life in the community and is deserving of a second opportunity for parole.

The standard we apply in assessing candidates for parole is set out in 120 C.M.R. 300.04, which provides that, "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." Applying that appropriately high standard here, the Parole Board grants parole to New York via Interstate Compact after completion of six months

in lower security. This plan will allow for important supports during a closely supervised transition.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Re-parole to New York via Interstate Compact after completion of six months in lower security; no drug use with testing required in accordance with agency policy; no alcohol use with testing required in accordance with agency policy; substance abuse evaluation and follow recommended treatment; comply with prescribed medication; one-on-one counseling for depression and other adjustment issues.

*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.*

  
Caitlin E. Casey, Chief of Staff

12/4/14  
Date