



Decision and Reasons Summary

Note: This is a summary of the Decision and Reasons dated September 8, 2025, and should not be substituted for the full document.

Incarcerated Individual SUAREZ, ROBERT	DOC# 881226	Date: August 27, 2025	Case Type: LT JUVBRD
Decision: Not Releasable	Additional Release Information: <input type="checkbox"/> Add months to Minimum Term (MT). <input type="checkbox"/> Extends to Maximum Expiration. <input type="checkbox"/> Reaffirms prior Decision to hold to Max Expiration. <input type="checkbox"/> As of the Earned Release Date (ERD) of the current cause/count. <input type="checkbox"/> As of the date of this decision. <input type="checkbox"/> Continued to next available Docket for .		

Next Action: Pursuant to RCW 9.94A.730, Mr. Suarez is eligible to re-petition five years from the date of the decision. The Board will not set an earlier re-petition date. Mr. Suarez' current earned release is December 2030.

Recommendations:

- ☐ Sex Offense Treatment and Assessment Program (SOTAP), if eligible.
- ☐ Substance Abuse Treatment, Assessment and Follow Recommendations.
- ☐ Mental Health Treatment.
- ☒ Sober Support Groups.
- ☒ Other Programs, if eligible. Such as: Thinking for a Change, Redemption, Bridges to Life, Alternatives to Violence, Domestic Violence Treatment.
- ☒ Remain infraction free and have positive interactions with staff.
- ☒ Participate in next Hearing.
- ☒ Develop a release plan/community support.
- ☒ Other: Programing that emphasizes developing victim empathy and the impacts of crime.



Decision and Reasons

Incarcerated Individual SUAREZ, ROBERT	DOC# 881226	Facility Washington Corrections Center	Type of Hearing LT JUVBRD RCW 9.94A.730
Date of Hearing August 27, 2025	Final Decision Date September 8, 2025	Panel Members Jeff Patnode Corey McNally	

I. DECISION/LEGAL STANDARD

This matter came before the above-named Board Members of the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) for the first hearing pursuant to RCW 9.94A.730. This statute establishes a presumption of release unless rebutted by a preponderance of evidence. After considering the possible conditions of release and the remaining evidence, the Board finds Robert Suarez is more likely than not to commit a future crime if released. Consequently, the Board finds Robert Suarez not releasable.

NEXT ACTION: Pursuant to RCW 9.94A.730, Mr. Suarez is eligible to re-petition five years from the date of the decision. The Board will not set an earlier re-petition date. Mr. Suarez' current earned release is December 2030.

II. JURISDICTION

Robert Suarez is under the jurisdiction of the Board on March 24, 2005, conviction on Benton County Cause #4-1-01119-5 for Murder in the First Degree, Count I. The time start is March 30, 2005. The minimum term was set at 320 months which includes Mandatory of 240 months, from a Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) range of 240 to 320 months. The statutory maximum term is Life. Mr. Suarez has served approximately 245 months in prison and 202 days of jail time during the initial period of confinement.



RCW 9.94A.730, enacted in 2014, allows certain offenders who were under the age of 18 when they committed their crime(s) and were sentenced as adults to petition the Board for consideration of early release consideration after serving no less than 20 years of total confinement. Robert Suarez's petition resulted in the hearing on this date.

III. LAST BOARD DECISION

This is his first hearing with the Board.

IV. OFFENSE DESCRIPTION

On September 4, 2004, Mr. Suarez and his accomplice traveled from Kennewick to Benton City to visit his girlfriend at the restaurant where she worked. They reported they were in search of a ride home when they saw a truck in the Kiona-Benton Middle School parking lot and decided to 'jack' someone for it (steal the vehicle). They discussed their plan in detail and Mr. Suarez made his accomplice promise he would not back down. They approached the truck's owner, victim Robert Mars, who was a middle school teacher and coach, outside of his portable classroom and asked for change to call for a ride home. He offered them the use of his classroom phone. After using the phone and exiting the classroom, Mr. Suarez's accomplice fatally stabbed Mr. Mars, but could not take his truck keys as Mr. Mars ran to the main school building where he eventually died. Mr. Suarez then broke the truck window following which they entered the truck and stole cash, a cell phone, and crackers. When questioned, Mr. Suarez repeatedly changed his story before eventually admitting his involvement (Court of Appeals Unpublished Opinion filed February 26, 2008).

Per the Sentencing Memorandum filed December 9, 2022, according to a statement made by Mr. Suarez, after his accomplice stabbed Mr. Mars, they went to the front of the school where they considered going back to 'finish him off' as they believed Mr. Mars had gotten a good look at both of their faces. However, the entrance to the school was locked and they could not get in.



After they broke into Mr. Mars' vehicle, Mr. Suarez' accomplice located money which they decided to split equally. During his first interview with Detective Cantu Mr. Suarez stated, "I was overjoyed about the money we found... we got money, we have money for like I mean everything and nothing." They then used Mr. Mars' cell phone to call a friend (it was his grandmother who provided a ride) for a ride back to Kennewick. Mr. Suarez and his accomplice were both arrested on September 7, 2004.

V. OTHER RISK RELATED BEHAVIOR¹

Mr. Suarez has the following criminal history:

Benton County Superior Court 03-8-01049-8

- Offense date 11/12/2003 – Controlled Substance Violation – Guilty 3/31/2004
- Offense date 11/22/2003 – Criminal Trespass 2nd Degree – Guilty 3/31/2004

VI. EVIDENCE CONSIDERED

The Board considered the evidence presented at the hearing and reviewed Robert Suarez's ISRB file. The hearing was audio recorded and will be retained according to the retention schedules.

Testimony was provided by the following individuals:

- **Classification Counselor: Kathleen Glennon**
- **Robert Suarez**

The file review included the following documents:

☐ End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC) Reports dated:

¹ Risk related means, behavior that may be unadjudicated, charged and/or convicted that may contribute to an individual's risk to reoffend sexually because it shows a pattern of illegal sexual behavior and is often included in validated risk assessments included for scoring purposes. Other criminal convictions that include violence against a person show a criminal versatility in an individual, thus increasing risk for any offense, including a sex offense. Illegal behavior related to, or abuse of drugs or alcohol can decrease a person's ability to control their impulsivity and engage in problem solving and utilize coping strategies to reduce their risk.



☒ Criminal case records: **Probably Cause Statement dated 9-09-2024, numerous documents from 2022 request for resentencing, and police reports.**

☒ Psychological Evaluations: **Dated 3-10-2025**

☐ DOC Treatment and behavioral reports dated:

☐ Risk Assessments (Static, SOTIPS etc.):

- **HCR-20v3 is an instrument that organizes known risk factors into three categories: historical, clinical, and risk management. Using past, present, and future factors the HCR-20v3 assesses dynamic risk for recidivism.**
- **Hare Psychopathy Checklist-REVISED (PCL-R) indicates the extent to which the individual has psychopathic tendencies.**
- **Violence Risk Assessment Guide-Revised (VRAG-R) is a 12-item actuarial scale designed to predict violent recidivism.**
- **Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) is a self-administered objective test of personality and psychopathology.**
- **ACEs - Adverse Childhood Experiences, are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. ACEs can include violence, abuse, and growing up in a family with mental health or substance use problems. Toxic stress from ACEs can change brain development and affect how the body responds to stress. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood.**

☐ Findings and Conclusion (F&C) Dated:

☐ Prior Decision & Reasons (D&R) Dated:

☒ DOC OMNI Records

☐ Other:



VII. FINDINGS

- a. In preparation for this hearing, on July 8, 2025 Robert Suarez was provided with the evidence considered by the Board and was advised of their hearing rights.
- b. Robert Suarez appeared by video conference. Robert Suarez was represented by attorney Jeffrey Ellis.
- c. The Board has considered all potential conditions of community custody it may lawfully impose, including all potential conditions identified by the End of Sentence Review Committee (ESRC), DOC psychological evaluations, and RCW 9.94A.704. These conditions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Drug/Alcohol Restrictions
- Electronic Monitoring
- Geographic Restrictions
- Participation in Drug/Alcohol Treatment
- Participation in Sex Offense Treatment
- Prohibited Contacts
- Submit to Polygraphs
- Unapproved Relationships

- d. The Board has considered the evidence in support of Robert Suarez's release determination, including the following:

☒ Treatment/Programming: **He completed substance use disorder (SUD) treatment in 2025 and a number of additional offender changes programs to include: Cognitive behavioral Change, Focus on Freedom, MRT (Moral Reconation Therapy) Step Down Program, Getting it Right, Inside Out Dads, Anger Control Training (A2A), Self Repair, Advanced Living Skills, Intensive Transition, and Thinking For A Change(T4C).**

Additionally, he has completed numerous educational/vocational programs and prison employment.



- ☒ Protective Factors: **He has a release plan and community support, though it is unclear as to whether or not his support is pro social.**
- ☒ Risk Assessment Scores: **He scores low on the PCL-R and HRC-20 v3**
- ☒ Psychological Evaluations: **Psychological Evaluation by PhD Robtoy date 3-10-2025, which indicates he is a reasonable candidate for early release and low risk for future violence.**

☐ Other Evidence:

e. The Board has considered the evidence against Robert Suarez's release:

- ☐ Refusal to participate in available programs or resources designed to assist in reducing an incarcerated individual's risk to reoffend.
- ☒ Serious and repetitive disciplinary infractions during incarceration. **Mr. Suarez has a history of committing violence in prison that is connected to a gang affiliation. From 2006-2019, he received multiple serious infractions that either included assaultive behavior or some use of aggression. Mr. Suarez acknowledges these behaviors were primarily driven by his gang association.**
- ☐ Evidence of an incarcerated individual's continuing intent or propensity to engage in sex offenses.
- ☐ Statements or declarations by the incarcerated individual of the intent not to comply with conditions of community custody.
- ☐ End of sentence review determination based on actuarial assessments identifying risk to sexually reoffend.
- ☒ Psychological Evaluations. **The March 2025 psychological evaluation indicates Mr. Surez scores as follows on the Violence Risk Assessment Guide-Revised (VRAG-R). Mr. Suarez's scored in the second highest category of 9 (7 of 9), which indicated that 45% of similar offenders are expected to meet criteria for violent recidivism within 5 years of release, and 69% within 12 years.**



He scores high on the ACE Questionnaire (8 out of 10). Mr. Suarez's responses resulted in a score of 8, suggesting that he experienced a seriously dysfunctional upbringing, which likely complicated his ability to develop trust, empathy/caring for other people, and prosocial decision making “.

The Personality Assessment Inventory indicates Mr. Suarez' profile contains some features that suggest questionable validity. He endorsed a significant number of uncommon items, so much so that his score on the Infrequency (INF) scale was higher than 96% of the normative sample.

☒ Other evidence: **Mr. Suarez provides a version of the index offense which has not been previously recorded and appears to be an attempt to place him in a more favorable light. Additionally, his expressed desire to return to the community where the murder occurred, indicates a lack of understanding this murder has had on the survivors and community at large. The victim was a “beloved” teacher and coach in the public school system.**

f. The community custody conditions, and any favorable evidence noted above considered by the Board would not sufficiently reduce the likelihood of Robert Suarez committing new offenses because:

- **Though Mr. Suarez’ March 2025 psychological evaluation was largely favorable, the Board believes the factors below outweigh the favorability of that report.**
- **Mr. Suarez’ description of the index offense differs from the facts captured in file material. He stated in his hearing that before his accomplice stabbed the victim, he indicated they should not complete the murder. This information is not captured in other file material and appears to be an attempt by Mr. Suarez to lessen his culpability.**
- **Mr. Suarez’ explanation of the events as it relates to the absence of preplanning for the murder is not believable. This apparent lack of transparency calls into**



question whether he has taken responsibility for his crimes and if the appropriate risks have been the targets of treatment.

- **Mr. Suarez has a history of committing violence in prison that is connected to a gang affiliation. From 2006-2019, he received multiple serious infractions that either included assaultive behavior or some use of aggression. Mr. Suarez acknowledges these behaviors were primarily driven by his gang association.**
- **The March 2025 psychological evaluation indicates Mr. Surez score as follows on the Violence Risk Assessment Guide-Revised (VRAG-R). Mr. Suarez’s scored in the second highest category of 9 (7 of 9), which indicated that 45% of similar offenders are expected to meet criteria for violent recidivism within 5 years of release, and 69% within 12 years.**
- **His expressed desire to return to the community where the murder occurred indicates a lack of understanding as to the impacts of his crime on the survivors and community at large. The victim was a “beloved” teacher and coach in the public school system.**

g. After weighing all of the evidence, including the community custody conditions and any favorable evidence noted above, the Board finds by a preponderance of the evidence that Robert Suarez is more likely than not to commit a new crime if released with conditions that are designed to help better prepare them for a successful re-entry into society.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS

- ☐ Sex Offense Treatment and Assessment Program (SOTAP), if eligible.
- ☐ Substance Abuse Treatment, Assessment and Follow Recommendations.
- ☐ Mental Health Treatment.
- ☒ Sober Support Groups.



- ☒ Other Programs, if eligible. Such as: Thinking for a Change, Redemption, Bridges to Life, Alternatives to Violence, Domestic Violence Treatment.
- ☒ Remain infraction free and have positive interactions with staff.
- ☒ Participate in next Hearing.
- ☒ Develop a release plan/community support.
- ☒ Other: **Programing that emphasizes developing victim empathy and the impacts of crime.**

JP hd

Date Typed: 9/2/2025

cc: Facility: **Washington Corrections Center**
ROBERT SUAREZ, Incarcerated Individual
File



TO: Full Board

FROM: **Jeff Patnode** (HD)

RE: SUAREZ, ROBERT DOC #881226

Panel recommends: Not Releasable.

Next Action: Pursuant to RCW 9.94A.730, Mr. Suarez is eligible to re-petition five years from the date of the decision. The Board will not set an earlier re-petition date. Mr. Suarez' current earned release is December 2030.

AGREE (initial and date)	DISAGREE (initial and date)
Jeff Patnode 9/8/2025	Corey McNally 9/8/2025
Jill Getty 9/8/2025	Meghan Kelly-Stallings 9/8/2025
Kecia Rongen 9/8/2025	Choose an item. Click to enter a date.
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