



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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**BRIAN PIERCE**  
**W54098**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** December 4, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** March 17, 2026

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.<sup>1</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On March 2, 1993, in Worcester Superior Court, Brian Pierce pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of second-degree murder in the death of 19-year-old Nikki Ann Evangelous and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2007 and review hearings in 2012, 2017 and 2022.

On December 4, 2025, Mr. Pierce appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Boston College Defenders student attorneys supervised by Attorney Frank Herrmann. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Pierce's December 4, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On the night of July 7, 1991, 23-year-old Brian Pierce encountered Nikki Ann Evangelous (whom he had known since high school) at a local bar. They ended up at his basement apartment in Clinton, where Mr. Pierce proceeded to murder Ms. Evangelous. After he killed her, Mr. Pierce contorted her body and tied it up to fit in a box, which he then threw into a drainage culvert. When police interviewed him six days later, Mr. Pierce admitted to a conversation with Ms. Evangelous outside the bar that night. He stated, however, that he had no other contact with her. Mr. Pierce later made admissions to a friend, who then notified police. The friend reported that Mr. Pierce stated that he raped and murdered Ms. Evangelous and then

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<sup>1</sup> Two Board Members voted to grant parole after 6 months in lower security.

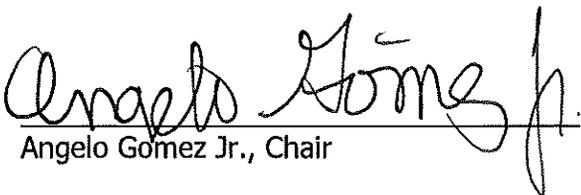
disposed of the body. While wearing a wire, the friend had Mr. Pierce lead him to the body. Five months after her death, the body of Ms. Evangelous was found in an advanced state of decomposition.

After his arrest in December 1991, Mr. Pierce spoke to police a second time. In this statement, he claimed that he and Ms. Evangelous had consensual sex at his apartment, but that she planned to accuse him of rape because she had a boyfriend. Mr. Pierce said that he became enraged and choked her to death. He then proceeded to stand on her neck, with his hands pressed against the ceiling, to ensure that she was dead.

**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** This was Mr. Pierce's 5<sup>th</sup> hearing before the Board. Since the last hearing, Mr. Pierce has made some progress in understanding his pattern of domestic violence through his pursuit of directed study courses. He has served 34 years and has only recently begun to address his history of domestic violence and acceptance of the harm he has caused others. The majority of the Board is of the opinion that Mr. Pierce would benefit from programming to address victim impact and to develop a re-entry plan and support network that could assist him with re-entry needs. The Board also notes that Mr. Pierce has struggled with accountability and understanding the pattern of his abusive relationships. Thus, a re-entry plan should incorporate further intensive treatment. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Ms. Evangelous's sister and Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Louis Tosches. The Board concludes that Brian Pierce has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

*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.*

  
Angelo Gomez Jr., Chair

March 17, 2026  
Date