



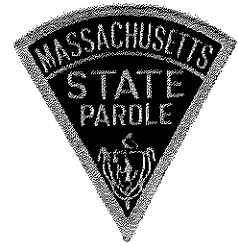
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**MICHAEL COLLINS
W94599**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 31, 2026

DATE OF DECISION: September 15, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is granted to CRJ or LTRP with outpatient services for substance use after 6 months but not before DA Clearance.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 16, 2009, after a jury trial in Suffolk Superior court, Michael Collins was convicted of second-degree murder in the shooting death of Myles Lawton and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Collins was convicted of armed assault with intent to murder and unlawful possession of a firearm. He received concurrent sentences of fifteen to twenty years and four to five years in state prison, respectively. Mr. Collins was denied parole after his initial hearing in 2023.

On November 25, 2025, Mr. Collins appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Northeastern University School of Law student Attorney's Eric Doty and Jane Bannish under the supervision of Patricia Garin and Mia Teitelbaum. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Collin's, March 31, 2026, hearing.

¹ Board Member Ortiz was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² Two Board Members voted to deny parole.

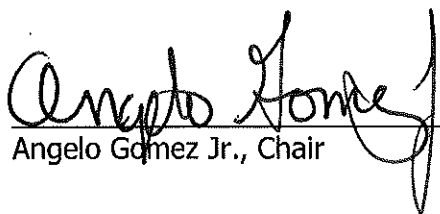
STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 5, 2006, Michael Collins, then 27 years old, shot and killed 62 year old Myles Lawton during a robbery in Boston. Earlier that day, Mr. Collins met Mr. Lawton and another man at an apartment so that Mr. Collins could see \$38,000 in cash that would be used for a drug transaction. Later that day, Mr. Collins returned to the apartment, drew a firearm, and demanded the cash. Mr. Collins hit Mr. Lawton in the back of the head with the firearm and then shot him, killing him. Mr. Collins shot the other man several times as he tried to summon help.

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: Mr. Collins appeared before the Board for the second time. He has been engaged with Boston College and is in the process of earning his bachelor's degree. He has completed CRA and Restorative Justice programming. Since his last hearing, he has stepped into more leadership roles. He has strong support in the community including faith-based organizations, elected officials, and the Transformational Prison Project. His re-entry plan includes connecting with Haley House. The Board agrees to provide a period of incarceration pending release so Mr. Collins may continue his educational pursuits. The Board concludes that Michael Collins has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board considered testimony from three members of Mr. Collins's family, and two members of the community, in support of parole. The Board also considered the testimony of Mr. Lawton's son in opposition to parole. A member of the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office attended the hearing but did not testify.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks or program; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; Supervise for drugs, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Supervise for liquor abstinence, testing in accordance with Agency policy; Report to assigned MA Parole Office on day of release; Report to probation in Rhode Island; No contact with victim's family; Must participate in individual and/or group substance abuse counseling; CRJ or LTRP.

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

September 15, 2026
Date