

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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Chair*

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**COREY PATTERSON**  
**W100497**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** August 5, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** January 20, 2026

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

**VOTE:** Parole is granted on/after 6 months total in minimum security to CRJ for 90 days.<sup>1</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On April 3, 2012, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Corey Patterson was convicted of murder in the second-degree for the death of Gregory Phillips. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was convicted of three counts of assault and battery on a police officer, for which he was sentenced to terms of 2 years each, to be served concurrently with one another and with the life sentence. This sentence was deemed served.

On August 5, 2025, Mr. Patterson appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was not represented by counsel. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Patterson's August 5, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**<sup>2</sup> In the early morning hours of November 8, 2009, 24-year-old Gregory Phillips and a group of friends were exiting a bar in Allston at closing time. Corey Patterson (age 23), who was also with a group of friends, had been trying to garner the attention of one of the women in Mr. Phillip's group. Mr. Patterson made a comment to the woman and was told to leave her alone. When Mr. Patterson refused, a fight ensued between the two groups. During the fight, Mr. Patterson approached Mr. Phillips with a knife in hand and stabbed him in the chest. Mr. Phillips died later that night as a result of injuries to his heart. Following the

<sup>1</sup> Board Member Tonomey Coleman participated in the hearing but departed the Board prior to vote.

<sup>2</sup> Taken from Commonwealth v. Corey Patterson, 92 Mass. App. Ct. 1119 (2017)

stabbing, Mr. Patterson and his friends left the crime scene and discarded the knife under a parked vehicle.


As Mr. Patterson was escaping the scene in a vehicle driven by his cousin, he instructed his cousin to return to the location where he had discarded the knife. Mr. Patterson retrieved the knife and returned to his cousin's vehicle. Police officers immediately stopped the car and, after a struggle, arrested Mr. Patterson and confiscated the knife. DNA testing of blood found on the knife and on Mr. Patterson's shoes matched that of Mr. Phillips.

**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. Patterson presented for his initial hearing before the Board. He was 23-years-old at the time of the offense. He is currently 38-years-old. Mr. Patterson invested in rehabilitation early in his incarceration. He has been sober throughout his incarceration. Mr. Patterson demonstrated insight and accountability and addressed precipitants to his offense. Mr. Patterson invested in education, completing his Bachelor of Arts from Boston University, and has established community supports and employment. Mr. Patterson has worked with several legislators to address issues with structural racism and plans to continue. The Board considered public testimony from family and friends of Mr. Patterson, who spoke in support of parole. The Board also considered the testimony of Suffolk County ADA Montez Haywood in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Corey Patterson has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Waive work for 2 weeks; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or curfew at Parole Officer's discretion; 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; No contact with victim's family; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; CRJ – 90 Days.

*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

January 20, 2026  
Date