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Angelo Gomez, Jr.  
Chair

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**DIONICIO DELVALLE**  
**W80310**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** March 10, 2026

**DATE OF DECISION:** July 16, 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 in minimum security to CRJ or LTRP<sup>1</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On May 15, 2005, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Dionicio Delvalle was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Maude Hinds. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Mr. Delvalle became parole eligible following the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in Commonwealth v. Mattis, 493 Mass. 216 (2024), where the court held that sentencing individuals who were ages 18 through 20 at the time of the offense (emerging adults) to life without the possibility of parole is unconstitutional. As a result of the SJC's decision regarding his first-degree murder conviction, Mr. Delvalle was re-sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

On March 10, 2026, Mr. Delvalle appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Amy Belger. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Delvalle's March 10, 2026, hearing.

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<sup>1</sup> One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 1 year. One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 3 years.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On April 22, 1991, Dionicio Delvalle (age 19) murdered 87-year-old Maude Hinds after she discovered Mr. Delvalle breaking into her Roxbury apartment with his brother. That evening, at approximately 9 p.m., the first floor tenant of the apartment building found Ms. Hinds' lifeless body in the common hallway of the building. She had been severely beaten, with injuries to her face and numerous fractures to her ribs and spine. A hammer and broken flashlight were found near her body. The victim's second-floor bedroom had been ransacked, and her bedroom window was broken. There were fingerprints and blood evidence on the window. Additionally, DNA evidence from blood on the window matched DNA from blood on Ms. Hinds' clothing.

Nine years later, the Boston Police Department matched fingerprints left on the window to Mr. Delvalle. Additionally, Mr. Delvalle's DNA matched blood found on both the window and on Ms. Hinds' clothing. Mr. Delvalle was interviewed and admitted that he had broken into the apartment building and "brushed" by the victim as he made his escape. However, he blamed the murder on his brother.

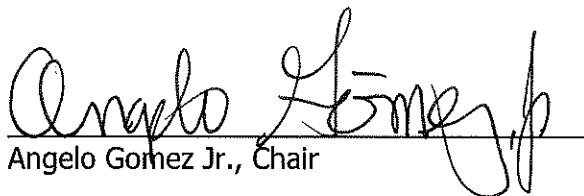
**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and 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.

Where a parole candidate was convicted of first-degree murder for a crime committed when he was ages 18 through 20 years old, the Board considers the "unique aspects" of emerging adulthood that distinguish emerging adult offenders from older offenders. Commonwealth v. Mattis, 493 Mass. 216, 238 (2024). Individuals who were emerging adults at the time of the offense must be afforded a "meaningful opportunity to obtain release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation" and the Board evaluates "the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, including the age of the offender, together with all relevant information pertaining to the offender's character and actions during the intervening years since conviction." Id. (citing Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk Dist., 466 Mass. 655, 674 (2013) (Diatchenko I); Miller v. Alabama, 567 U.S. 460, 471 (2012); Graham v. Florida, 560 U.S. 48, 75 (2010)). Since brain development in emerging adulthood is ongoing, the Board also considers the following factors when evaluating parole candidates who committed the underlying offenses as an emerging adult: 1) a lack of impulse control in emotionally arousing situations; 2) an increased likelihood to engage in risk taking behaviors in pursuit of reward; 3) increased susceptibility to peer influence which makes emerging adults more likely to engage in risky behavior; and 4) an emerging adult's greater capacity for change. See Mattis, 493 Mass. at 225-229.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Mr. Delvalle appeared for the first time before the Board. He was 19-years-old at the time of the offense. He is now 54-years-old and has served 25 years. Mr. Delvalle participated in programming that addressed his need areas. He appears to have benefited. Mr. Devalle displayed positive institutional conduct with minimal disciplinary reports. Mr. Delvalle has also committed himself to Occupational Skills training with consistent employment in the Metal Shop as a welder. Mr. Delvalle accepted full responsibility for his actions and displayed insight into his decision making and actions following the offense. The Board also considered the forensic evaluation and testimony of Dr. Lockwood in rendering its decision. Mr. Delvalle has a strong support system and release plan to assist with successful re-entry. Mr. Delvalle has no diagnosis of Mental Health or Substance Use Disorder. Mr. Delvalle has also provided employment opportunities upon release. The Board concludes that Dionicio Delvalle has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Delvalle's sister and two of his friends. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Waive work for 2 weeks; 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; LTRP or CRJ.

*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

July 16, 2026  
Date