



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

EDWARD HOLLOMAN  
W95739

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** April 3, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** August 13, 2025

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

**VOTE:** Parole is granted to an approved home plan after 90 days in lower security.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On January 12, 2010, in Suffolk Superior Court, Edward Holloman pleaded guilty to murder in the second-degree for the death of Curtis Ashford. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Holloman pleaded guilty to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and received a concurrent sentence of 7 years to 7 years and 1 day in state prison. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2023.

On April 3, 2025, Edward Holloman appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Boston College Defenders student attorneys Gabrielle Brown, Margaret Heffernan and Francesca Darcy under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrmann. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Edward Holloman's April 3, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On May 31, 2008, 19-year-old Edward Holloman and his two co-defendants were at a South Boston apartment when 24-year-old Curtis Ashford and another individual began to engage in an argument outside of the apartment. The argument escalated, and a physical confrontation ensued. As the fight continued, Mr. Holloman and one co-defendant left the apartment to see what was happening. At some point, the two individuals stopped fighting. Both Mr. Holloman and his co-defendant pursued Mr. Ashford and his friend, who was now on scene. They caught up to Mr. Ashford and his friend near the entrance to the apartments. Mr. Holloman's co-defendant gave him a knife as they were approaching the two men. Mr.

Holloman then stabbed Mr. Ashford twice in the chest and once in the back. His co-defendant then assaulted the second man by punching him. The second victim fled into the hallway, where he hit his head on a stairwell and fell to the ground. Mr. Holloman's co-defendant then punched and kicked this victim several times before fleeing the scene. This victim sustained multiple injuries to his face and head. Both Mr. Holloman and his co-defendant fled the scene in a red station wagon driven by the third co-defendant. Boston EMS arrived and transported Mr. Ashford to Boston Medical Center, where he died a short time later from the stab wounds.

**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 (if applicable).

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Mr. Holloman presented with insight into his needs. He has completed multiple programs, including Alternatives to Violence, CRA, Victim Impact, and Restorative Justice. He has a minimal disciplinary report history. He has vocational skills and pursued educational opportunities. He has been involved in the Companionship Program. He reports being sober for over 10 years. Mr. Holloman's re-entry plan addresses education, employment, mental and behavioral health. The Board also considered Mr. Holloman's medical condition and his anticipated needs for immediate medical care. The Board considered testimony from three individuals, who spoke in support of parole. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from 2 of the victim's family members and Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Edward Holloman has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Approve home plan before release; Waive work for medical or 2 weeks; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or PO discretion; Electronic monitoring for 6 months or earlier removal for medical reasons; 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.

*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.*

  
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Toroney A. Coleman, Acting Chair

  
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Date