



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Gina K. Kwon
Secretary

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4598

Angelo Gomez, Jr.
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

EMMETT SNOW

W47116

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **November 25, 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 Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review 1 year from the date of hearing due to a split decision.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On September 28, 1989, after a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Emmett Snow was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Richard Bailey. He was sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was granted following an initial hearing in 2004, but Mr. Snow was returned to custody in 2006 after violating parole. After a review hearing in 2007, Mr. Snow was granted parole and released from custody. Mr. Snow was returned to custody after his parole was preliminary revoked in February 2008, but he was re-paroled after the revocation was not affirmed. In December 2008, Mr. Snow violated parole and his parole was revoked a second time. After a review hearing in 2009, Mr. Snow was granted parole, but his parole was rescinded prior to his release. He was denied parole after a review hearing in 2012. In 2017, Mr. Snow was granted parole, but his parole was rescinded prior to release. In 2019, Mr. Snow was denied parole. In 2021, Mr. Snow was granted parole and released but was returned to custody after violating parole in 2023. Mr. Snow was paroled again in October 2023, but his parole was revoked in October 2024.

¹ Chair Gomez Jr. was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² Three Board Members voted to grant parole to an approved home plan, and three Board Members vote to deny parole resulting in a split decision.

On November 25, 2025, Mr. Snow appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by student attorneys from Northeastern University, supervised by Attorney Patty Garin. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Snow's November 25, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On the evening of August 27, 1988, 18-year-old Emmett Snow murdered 16-year-old Richard Bailey (also known as "Poyo"). Mr. Bailey had engaged in a fight with a friend of Mr. Snow's on the previous night. On the night of the murder, as Mr. Bailey and about seven of his friends were sitting on a fence in the Warren Gardens housing complex, they saw 10 to 15 young men walking toward them, armed with sticks, canes, and bats. Mr. Snow was walking slightly ahead of the others. When Mr. Bailey and his friends started to run, Mr. Snow's group gave chase. Mr. Snow reached Mr. Bailey, and the two began to fight. Eventually, after Mr. Snow tripped him, Mr. Bailey fell to the ground. Then, about five men descended upon Mr. Bailey and began to beat him. One of the men stabbed Mr. Bailey. One witness claimed that Mr. Snow had given the man the knife, told him to stab Mr. Bailey, and then twisted the knife and pulled it from his chest. Another witness claimed that Mr. Snow yelled, "I got Poyo" after the stabbing. In the immediate aftermath of the stabbing, Mr. Bailey reportedly said, "Get Emmett, Emmett's the one who stabbed me." Mr. Bailey died later that evening from a stab wound to the heart.

Prior to this incident, on March 7, 1987, Mr. Snow was involved in a knife fight with his friend George "Skip" Brewington. Both boys had knives. Mr. Snow stabbed Skip Brewington to death. He was found delinquent of manslaughter and placed on probation.

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. Snow has a parole hearing after his fifth return to custody. Mr. Snow continues to follow behavior patterns which are inconsistent with an understanding of his rehabilitative needs and how to map out a successful re-entry. The Board recognizes Mr. Snow's strengths of community support, but his repeated parole violations are very concerning. He needs to devote sustained efforts to addressing his substance use, gain a steady employment history, and address the factors in his life which contribute to his multiple parole violations. Mr. Snow is high risk on the LS/CMI risk assessment tool. The Board heard testimony in support of parole from one of Mr. Snow's family members and a member of the community. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood. Parole is denied because a majority of the Board did not vote to parole Mr. Snow, and the Board will conduct a parole hearing in one year from the date of his 2025 hearing.

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