

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**GEORGE ARROYO
W89863**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: May 1, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: November 20, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is granted to a Long-Term Residential Program after 6-month step down to lower security.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On May 9, 2007, in Essex Superior Court, George Arroyo pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2019, and after a review hearing in 2023.

Mr. Arroyo appeared before the Board for a review hearing on May 1, 2025. He was represented by Boston College Law School student attorneys under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrmann. The entire video recording of Mr. Arroyo's May 1, 2025, hearing is fully incorporated by reference to the Board's decision.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On June 21, 2004, 17-year-old Jorge Martinez was found lying in the street, having sustained a gunshot wound to his chest. Witnesses reported the direction in which the shooter ran and saw 19-year-old George Arroyo throw items over a fence on Erving Ave. Mr. Arroyo was also attempting to change his appearance by removing certain articles of clothing. While at the hospital, the victim was pronounced dead. Mr. Arroyo was located on Erving Ave. and taken into custody and charged with murder.

¹ Former Chair Hurley participated in the hearing on this matter, but departed the Board prior to the vote.

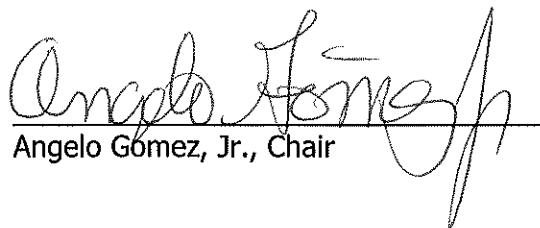
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole “[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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: This was Mr. Arroyo’s third appearance before the Board. Since the last hearing two years ago, Mr. Arroyo completed Correctional Recovery Academy and Victim Impact. However, he has continued to struggle with substance misuse. He has engaged in counseling and is involved in substance misuse recovery. Mr. Arroyo has been employed as a cleaner since December 2024. He earned his Hi-Set in 2014. Mr. Arroyo’s parole plan includes employment opportunities and provides insight into his need for support for his substance misuse issues. The Board finds appropriate re-entry includes a Long-Term Residential Program to support Mr. Arroyo’s return to the community. The Board reviewed submitted medical records and considered the testimony offered at the hearing. The Board notes specifically the letter offered by the mother of the victim and read by the ADA at the hearing, inviting Mr. Arroyo to join her at the Grieving Youth and Families of the Merrimack Valley/United Youth. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Arroyo 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. Arroyo’s mother. The Board also heard testimony in opposition to parole from Essex County Assistant District Attorney Elin Graydon.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks or Program; Electronic monitoring for 6 months, then at PO’s request for extension; 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 or association at PO’s discretion with [named individual]; Mental Health Counseling for adjustment; Residential program - LTRT; AA/NA at least 3 times per week; Mandatory Peer Support or Recovery Coach

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

11/20/25
Date