



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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**HAROLD CALLIGAN**

**W81240**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** December 2, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** March 23, 2026

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz<sup>1</sup>

**VOTE:** Parole is granted to a Long-Term Residential Program or CRJ but not before 12 months in minimum security and DA Clearance.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On January 9, 2003, after a jury trial in Bristol Superior Court, Harold Calligan was convicted of burglary (assault on an occupant) and larceny from a building. He was sentenced to life in prison as a habitual offender and a consecutive term of four and one half to five years, respectively. Mr. Calligan waived his initial parole hearing in 2016, and his parole was denied at his hearing in 2022.

On December 2, 2025, Mr. Calligan appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Northeastern University School of Law student attorneys Aidan Kierce and Maya Quirk under the supervision of Attorney Patricia Garin. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Calligan's December 2, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On the evening of September 22, 2001, Harrold Calligan (then 37 years old), broke into the apartment of M.B.<sup>2</sup>, a 76 year-old woman who lived alone in an elderly housing complex. M.B. woke up with Mr. Calligan in her bedroom, where he fought her and "put his hands down in [her] privates." Mr. Calligan then left the apartment, taking numerous items belonging to M.B. After Mr. Calligan left the apartment, M.B. called 911, and when police arrived

<sup>1</sup> Board Members Coughlin and Ortiz were not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

<sup>2</sup> The victim's name has been withheld to protect her privacy.

she provided a description of her attacker. Police found Mr. Calligan, who matched the description, in the neighborhood, and M.B. identified him as the person who had attacked her in her apartment.

**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. Calligan appeared before the Board for the second time. The Board notes that he followed the recommendations of the Board after the last hearing. He has an extensive support system He has maintained his sobriety. He has had no disciplinary reports in seven years. He has maintained employment. He has a release plan which involves continued treatment in the community. Mr. Calligan takes responsibility for his crimes and has been engaged in programming. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from five of Mr. Calligan’s friends. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Karen O’Sullivan. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Harold Calligan has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Waive work for 2 weeks or SSI; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or PO’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; May have contact with [six named individuals]; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Long Term Residential Program or CRJ; AA at least 3 times per week or PO’s discretion; Other: Mandatory Sex Offender conditions pursuant to Attachment A, waiving polygraph and journaling requirements.

*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 23, 2026  
Date