



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ISRAEL DEJESUS MARTINEZ
W37433

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: August 7, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: February 12, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner¹, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in two years from the date of the hearing.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 26, 1979, following a jury trial in Essex County Superior Court, Israel DeJesus Martinez was convicted of murder in the second-degree for the death of Ernest Tellier. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On November 25, 1980, in Essex County Superior Court, Martinez pleaded guilty to escape, two counts of kidnapping, unlawful possession of a firearm, and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. He was sentenced to 3 to 5 years for each offense, to be served concurrently with one another and from and after his life sentence (Commitment Number W55919).³

After his initial hearing in 1993, Mr. Martinez was released on parole to his From and After sentence. After being returned due to violations, parole was denied following a review hearing in 1998. In 2001, Mr. Martinez was released on parole and returned due to violations. After a review hearing in 2005, Mr. Martinez was paroled to the community for the third time. On August 11, 2007, while on parole, he was arrested for the non-fatal stabbing of his then girlfriend in Taunton, MA. On December 18, 2007, he pleaded guilty to charges of armed assault with intent to murder, mayhem, larceny of a motor vehicle, and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. He was adjudicated as a habitual offender and was sentenced to 20 years for the armed assault

¹ Board member Bonner and Board Member Gomez were not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² Board member Tonomey Coleman was present for the hearing but departed the Board prior to the vote.

³ Martinez was discharged from this commitment (W55919) on April 5, 1998.

with intent to murder conviction, to be served from and after his life sentence, and concurrent terms of 20 years, 15 years, and 10 years, respectively, for the remaining convictions. Mr. Martinez served the intervening sentence until May 24, 2023, when he was discharged from this commitment (W91180) and resumed serving his life sentence (W37433). Parole was denied following review hearings in 2016 and 2023.

On August 7, 2025, Mr. Martinez appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He did not have legal representation. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Martinez's August 7, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 17, 1978, Israel Dejesus Martinez (age 19) and two co-conspirators entered the Lawrence home of 74-year-old Ernest Tellier and found him asleep in a chair. The three men bound and gagged Mr. Tellier and stole items from the residence. As Mr. Martinez and his co-conspirators fled the home, they cut the home's telephone cords. The following day, Mr. Tellier's sister returned home to find her brother's body on the floor of the ransacked apartment. It was later determined that Mr. Tellier had died from a heart attack brought on by stress. One of Mr. Martinez's co-conspirators implicated Mr. Martinez in the robbery and murder of Ernest Tellier. When Mr. Martinez was asked what he thought about the co-conspirator's statement, he admitted to tying up Mr. Tellier and taking belongings from his home.

On the day of his sentencing (December 26, 1979), Mr. Martinez and a co-conspirator escaped from a transport vehicle after threatening two officers with sharpened metal instruments. The co-conspirator obtained a firearm from one of the officers, and the two men stole the vehicle with the two officers still inside. They fled on foot and were captured a short time later. Mr. Martinez was convicted of escape, two counts of kidnapping, unlawful possession of a firearm, and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. He was sentenced to 3-5 years, to be served from and after his life sentence.

On August 11, 2007, while on parole supervision, Mr. Martinez was arrested for the non-fatal stabbing of his girlfriend in Taunton. He was convicted of armed assault with intent to murder, mayhem, larceny of a motor vehicle, and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. He was adjudicated as a habitual offender and sentenced to 20 years on the armed assault with intent to murder conviction, to be served from and after his life sentence. He received concurrent sentences on the remaining convictions. He was discharged from these sentences on May 24, 2023.

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. Martinez was before the Board for a review hearing. He has had multiple returns to custody including for violence after having been granted prior paroles. At the hearing, Mr. Martinez demonstrated limited insight into domestic and relationship violence, despite having completed numerous programs in these need areas. Mr. Martinez is encouraged to deepen his work in these areas as well as substance misuse-related programming. The Board considered the testimony of representatives from the Massachusetts Parole Preparation Partnership in support of parole. The Board also considered the testimony of Essex County ADA Zachary Grube in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Israel DeJesus Martinez has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

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

February 12, 2026
Date