



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

**PAROLE BOARD**

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**JACK BELIARD  
W64898**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** **Initial Hearing**

**DATE OF HEARING:** **July 16, 2025**

**DATE OF DECISION:** **January 6, 2026**

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

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

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On July 1, 1998, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Jack Beliard was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Rico Green. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Beliard became parole eligible following the Supreme Judicial Court's decision in Commonwealth v. Mattis, 493 Mass. 216 (2024), where the court held that sentencing individuals who were ages eighteen through twenty at the time of the offense (emerging adults) to life without the possibility of parole is unconstitutional. As a result of the SJC's decision, with regard to Mr. Beliard's first-degree murder conviction, his mittimus was corrected to reflect that his life sentence carried the possibility of parole after 15 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Board member Alexander was not present at the hearing. The Chair deemed Board Member Alexander unavailable for the vote because, due to a malfunction in the Board's audio equipment, she was unable to review the full record of the public hearing. Former Acting Chair Coleman participated in the hearing but had departed the Board prior to the vote.

<sup>2</sup> On that same date, he was convicted of possession of ammunition and possession of a firearm. He received sentences of 4 to 5 years, and 1 year, respectively, with both to be served concurrently with his life sentence.

On July 16, 2025, Mr. Beliard appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Matthew Soares.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On September 7, 1996, Rico Green (age 18) was shot nine times while standing on Verrill Street in Mattapan. The shooting occurred as part of an ongoing dispute between two gangs. Three days before the shooting, on September 4, 1996, a physical confrontation occurred between both groups. Mr. Beliard (age 20) sustained a black eye during the confrontation. Over the next few nights, Mr. Beliard and other friends drove around Mattapan, trying to locate someone from the opposing gang to shoot.

On September 7, 1996, at about 3:00 a.m., Mr. Beliard and others drove to Verrill Street in Mattapan, where a member of the rival gang lived. Mr. Bellard was armed with a 9mm semi-automatic handgun, and a co-defendant<sup>3</sup> carried a .25 caliber semi-automatic handgun. Mr. Beliard and the co-defendant stood on a sidewalk on Verrill Street, waiting quietly behind a tree until they saw Mr. Green walking towards them with his dog. Mr. Beliard and the co-defendant then ambushed Mr. Green. He was shot in the chest, hand, leg, back, shoulder and head. Mr. Green was pronounced dead at approximately 3:30 a.m.

**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.

Where a parole candidate was convicted of first-degree murder for a crime committed when he was ages 18 through 20 years old, the Board considers the "unique aspects" of emerging adulthood that distinguish emerging adult offenders from older offenders. Commonwealth v. Mattis, 493 Mass. 216, 238 (2024). Individuals who were emerging adults at the time of the offense must be afforded a "meaningful opportunity to obtain release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation" and the Board evaluates "the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime, including the age of the offender, together with all relevant information pertaining to the offender's character and actions during the intervening years since conviction." Id. (citing Diatchenko v. District Attorney for the Suffolk Dist., 466 Mass. 655, 674 (2013) (Diatchenko I); Miller v. Alabama, 567 U.S. 460, 471 (2012); Graham v. Florida, 560 U.S. 48, 75 (2010)). Since brain development in emerging adulthood is ongoing, the Board also considers the following factors when evaluating parole candidates who committed the underlying offenses as an emerging adult: 1) a lack of impulse control in emotionally arousing situations; 2) an increased likelihood to engage in risk taking behaviors in pursuit of reward; 3) increased susceptibility to peer influence which makes emerging adults more likely to engage in risky

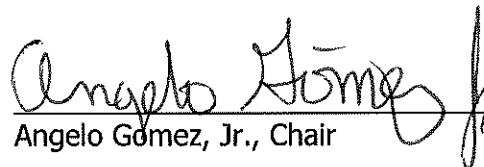
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<sup>3</sup> The co-defendant was acquitted at trial.

behavior; and 4) an emerging adult's greater capacity for change. See Mattis, 493 Mass. at 225-229.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** This was Mr. Beliard's first appearance before the Board. Mr. Beliard was 20 years old at the time of the offense; he is now 49 years old and has served 29 years. Mr. Beliard described a significant history of trauma that he never received treatment for. He had limited coping skills and engaged in problematic drinking and anti-social behaviors. Mr. Beliard has had a difficult adjustment; however, he has improved his conduct and has invested in meaningful rehabilitation in the past four years. The Board notes he also completed his Hi-Set in 2016. Mr. Beliard is currently engaged in the Brave Unit. The Board encourages him to continue his mentorship and invest in any additional opportunities to further his insight with regard to victim empathy. The Board notes his immigration detainer to Haiti and presented a release plan in MA should he remain in the USA. The Board encourages him to establish a release plan in Haiti in the event he is deported. The Board considered the forensic evaluation from Dr. Mendoza, as well as those who spoke in support of, and in opposition to, his parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Jack Beliard 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.*

  
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Angelo Gomez, Jr., Chair

January 6, 2026  
Date