



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JAMES DEMONT
W88136

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: October 30, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: March 12, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is granted to Long-Term Residential Program after 90 days in lower security.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On August 9, 2006, in Middlesex Superior Court, James Demont pleaded guilty to murder in the second-degree for the death of 39-year-old Juan Salazar. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2019 and after a review hearing in 2023.

On October 30, 2025, Mr. Demont appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by counsel. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of James Demont's October 30, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 18, 2004, at approximately 12:00 a.m., officers of the Billerica Police Department were dispatched to 114 Treble Cove Road pursuant to a 911 call. The caller reported that a man had been stabbed, and that the knife was still in his chest. The police arrived at the residence within minutes. Once inside, they encountered Juan Salazar, lying on the floor in a pool of blood, with the handle of a knife protruding from his chest. They also encountered a man, later identified as James Demont (age 31), who was being restrained by another man. A witness told the officers that Mr. Demont and Mr. Salazar had been fighting. The officers placed Mr. Demont in handcuffs and took him to the next room.

¹ Board Members Alexander and Coughlin were not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

Witnesses reported to the police that they heard a scream and other noises from inside the room. They heard Mr. Salazar saying, "No! No!" When they tried to get into the room, the door was locked. At this point, they could hear Mr. Salazar calling for help. Finally, they kicked down the door and entered the room. They observed Mr. Salazar partially leaning up against a dresser with at least one of his hands on his chest. They also saw Mr. Demont standing directly in front of Mr. Salazar, with his hands over Mr. Salazar's hand. A witness jumped between the two and pulled Mr. Demont off Mr. Salazar. Mr. Salazar was still conscious and told the witness that Mr. Demont had "hit" or "hurt" him. After seeing the knife in the chest of Mr. Salazar, witnesses attempted to restrain Mr. Demont and then called 911.

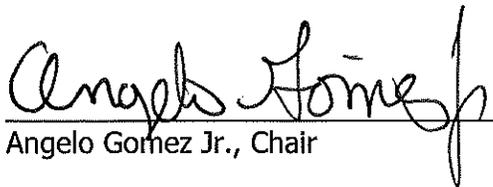
Mr. Salazar was transported to Lahey Clinic, where he was pronounced dead approximately 40 minutes later. It was later learned that Mr. Salazar and Mr. Demont had been friends, who often used heroin together at Mr. Salazar's house.

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: Since Mr. Demont's last hearing he has continued to invest in his recovery and has maintained his sobriety. He has engaged in violence reduction programming as well as Emotional Awareness and Mental Health counseling which appears to have been beneficial. He has established a significant support system and presented a re-entry plan to meet his needs. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Demont's sister, two friends, and a member of the community. The Board considered Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Alicia Walsh's testimony regarding her office's concerns related to Mr. Demont's parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that James Demont has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks; 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; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Long Term Residential Program; AA or NA at least 3 times per week at PO's discretion.

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 12, 2026
Date