



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

**PAROLE BOARD**

*12 Mercer Road*  
*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*



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*Telephone: (508)-650-4500*

*Facsimile: (508)-650-4598*

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ANTHONY JESSUP**  
**W100297**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** March 3, 2026

**DATE OF DECISION:** July 22, 2026

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

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.<sup>1</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On March 9, 2012, following a jury trial in Hampden County Superior Court, Anthony Jessup was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Jonathan Santiago. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was sentenced to a term of 4-to-5 years for carrying a firearm without a license, to be served concurrently with the life sentence, and a term of 2 and a half years in the House of Correction for carrying a loaded firearm, to be served from and after the 4-to-5-year sentence.

Mr. Jessup 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 18 through 20 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 regarding his first-degree murder conviction, Mr. Jessup was re-sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

On March 3, 2026, Mr. Jessup appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Leslie Walker. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Jessup's March 3, 2026, hearing.

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<sup>1</sup> One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 3 years.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On May 29, 2010, Anthony Jessup (age 20) murdered Jonathan Santiago during a robbery in Springfield. That evening, Mr. Santiago was parked outside a sports bar, waiting for some friends. Mr. Jessup and an accomplice approached the car and tried to rob Mr. Santiago. During the robbery, Mr. Jessup shot Mr. Santiago in the back. Mr. Santiago attempted to drive away, but crashed the car. He later died of the gunshot wound. Two individuals, friends of Mr. Santiago, witnessed the shooting; Mr. Jessup was later identified in photo arrays. Mr. Jessup attempted to flee, but he was apprehended in Virginia. While there, he wrote an inculpatory letter to his girlfriend.

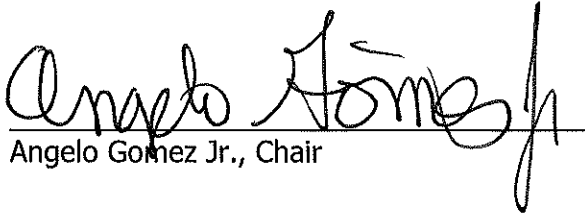
**APPLICABLE STANDARD:** Parole “[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and 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 behavior; and 4) an emerging adult’s greater capacity for change. See Mattis, 493 Mass. at 225-229.

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Mr. Jessup appeared before the Board for the first time as a result of the Supreme Judicial Court’s Mattis decision. Mr. Jessup, now 36-years-old, was 20-years-old at the time of offense. The Board reviewed the attributes of the emerging adult brain and how they apply to Mr. Jessup. The Board encourages Mr. Jessup to engage in leadership roles, complete CRA, and maintain Department of Correction approved employment. The Board reviewed the forensic evaluation of Dr. DiCataldo. The Board notes Mr. Jessup needs to engage fully in rehabilitative programming and remain disciplinary report free. The Board concludes that Anthony Jessup has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board considered the testimony of two members of Mr. Jessup’s family,

as well as his girlfriend, in support of parole. The Board also considered the testimony of one of Mr. Santiago's family members, and Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Lee Baker, in opposition to parole.

*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

July 22, 2026  
Date