

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JOHAN SAINT CLAIR
W101492

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 30, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: March 5, 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 two years from the date of the hearing.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On October 17, 2012, in Essex County Superior Court, Johan Saint Clair pleaded guilty to two counts of murder in the second-degree for the deaths of Juan Estaban Sueazo-Soto and Amarilis Roldan. He was sentenced to concurrent terms of life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he also pleaded guilty to two counts of armed assault with intent to murder and was sentenced to concurrent terms of 19 - 20 years, two counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and was sentenced to concurrent terms of 9 - 10 years, and one count of unlawful possession of a large capacity firearm and was sentenced to a concurrent term of 2 1/2 years to 2 1/2 years and 1 day.

On July 30, 2025, Mr. Saint Clair appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Shannon Lopez. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Saint Clair's July 30, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On September 6, 2010, Johan Saint Clair (age 30) walked into a crowded nightclub in Lawrence and opened fire with a large capacity firearm, killing Juan Estaban Suazo-Soto and Amarilis Roldan and severely wounding two others. Mr. Saint Clair shot Mr. Suazo-Soto and one of the victims because he believed they had robbed him of (illegal) drugs in

¹ Board Member Coleman participated in the hearing, but departed the Board prior to vote.

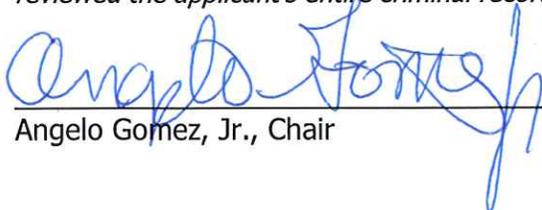
the past. Video evidence, and witnesses presented at trial,² established that Mr. Saint Clair left the club for approximately 10-15 minutes before returning, at which time he fired his large capacity firearm no less than 7 times, before running to a car while carrying the firearm.

Lawrence police officers observed a car leaving the club at a high rate of speed and gave chase. Officers observed one of the occupants of the car throw a firearm from the vehicle. After an extended police chase, the car crashed. Mr. Saint Clair was found at the scene. Police investigators determined the weapon to be the firearm used in the murders. One of Mr. Saint Clair's fingerprints was found on the magazine.

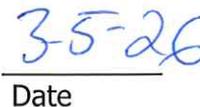
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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. (if applicable).

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This was Mr. Saint Clair's initial hearing before the Board. The Board considered the nature and circumstances of the crime, including Mr. Saint Clair's deliberate actions, which caused the death of two individuals and injured two others. While Mr. Saint Clair's overall institutional adjustment has been positive, the Board finds that Mr. Saint Clair's age at the time of the offense (30 years old), as well as the underlying facts, are significant factors for the Board in determining whether there is a reasonable probability that he will live and remain at liberty without violating the law, and that his release is not incompatible with the welfare of society. The Board encourages Mr. Saint Clair to continue with his rehabilitative efforts. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Johan Saint Clair has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board heard opposition testimony from the family of Ms. Roldan and from Essex County Assistant District Attorney Zachary Grube.

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



Date

² After the presentation of the entirety of the Commonwealth's evidence at trial, Mr. Saint Clair sought, and received, a plea agreement with the Commonwealth and changed his plea to guilty.