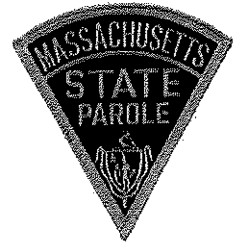




The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

JONATHAN CARVALHO
W99799

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 16, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: November 5, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 3 years from the date of the hearing.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 15, 2011, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Jonathan Carvalho was found guilty of both murder in the second-degree and possession of a firearm without a permit. On December 20, 2011, Mr. Carvalho received a life sentence with the possibility of parole for second degree murder. On that same date, he received a 4 to 5 year concurrent sentence for the firearm charge.

On June 16, 2025, Mr. Carvalho appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project Student Attorneys Sunny Drescher and Lauren O'Connell, under the supervision of Attorney John Fitzpatrick. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Carvalho's June 16, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On August 10, 2010, at approximately 12:35 p.m., 20-year-old Jonathan Carvalho shot and killed 29-year-old Luis Rodriguez. The investigation revealed that Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Carvalho had engaged in a disagreement in the weeks preceding the murder. This argument later culminated in an individual associated with Mr. Carvalho knocking on the door of an apartment in Chelsea and speaking with Mr. Rodriguez. This individual told Mr.

¹ Board Member Ortiz was not present for the hearing, but he reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

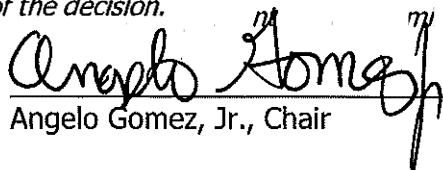
² One Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.

Rodriguez that Mr. Carvalho was waiting for him outside. After a short period of time, Mr. Rodriguez left the apartment and went out to the parking lot. Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Carvalho circled around each other briefly before Mr. Carvalho took a 9mm firearm from his waist and fired it at Mr. Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez immediately turned and began running back into the building. Mr. Carvalho followed him and proceeded to fire at Mr. Rodriguez at least two more times. One of those shots hit Mr. Rodriguez in the back, piercing his lung. Mr. Rodriguez stumbled into the building and made it upstairs before collapsing inside of his girlfriend's apartment. Mr. Rodriguez was transported by ambulance to Massachusetts General Hospital, where he died a short time later. Mr. Rodriguez did not have possession of a weapon. Mr. Carvalho fled the area and, later that day, boarded a bus for Florida. The next night he was arrested in Savannah, Georgia. When arrested by local and federal authorities, Mr. Carvalho gave a false name of Shakoor Raheem to officers.

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: This was Mr. Carvalho's first appearance before the Board. Mr. Carvalho was 20-years-old at the time of the offense. He is now 32-years-old and has served 15 years. Mr. Carvalho has engaged in minimal programs and continues to exhibit concerning behavior as evidenced by recent disciplinary tickets. Mr. Carvalho has invested in education, earning his bachelor's degree from Boston College. Mr. Carvalho acknowledged he was a high-ranking gang member and was candid about his participation in community violence. Mr. Carvalho states he has long since left the gang lifestyle and has been committed to his religion and furthering his religious studies. The Board encourages Mr. Carvalho to engage in more meaningful programs that focus on Victim Empathy and Conflict Resolution. The Board would also encourage him to remain disciplinary report free and acquire some vocational skills. The Board considered public testimony of those who spoke in support of, and in opposition to, his parole. Two of Mr. Carvalho's friends, and three members of his family, provided testimony in support of parole. Two of Mr. Rodriguez's friends and his sister and brother, as well as Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood, provided testimony in opposition to parole. The Board concludes that Jonathan Carvalho 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

11-5-25
Date