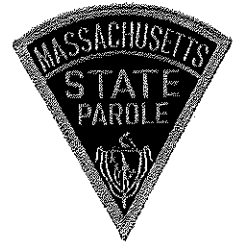


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
**PAROLE BOARD**

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**KEVIN DAHL**

**W55202**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** June 25, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** November 20, 2025

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz<sup>1</sup>

**VOTE:** Parole is denied with a review in 3 years from the date of hearing.<sup>2</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On October 9, 1993, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Kevin Dahl was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Andrew McDonough Jr. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Mr. Dahl 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 in regard to his first-degree murder conviction, Mr. Dahl was re-sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

On June 25, 2025, Mr. Dahl appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Rebecca Rose. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Kevin Dahl's June 25, 2025, hearing.

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<sup>1</sup> Board Member Coleman and Board Member Coughlin were not present for the hearing, but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

<sup>2</sup> Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years.

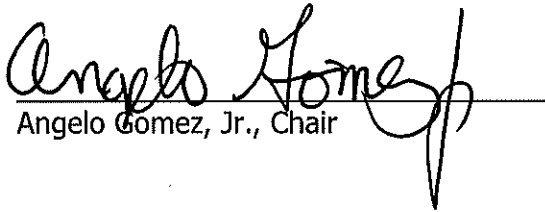
**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** In the early morning hours of July 13, 1992, 23-year-old Andrew McDonough, Jr., accompanied by two female friends and three male friends, set out to attend an "after party" in the South Boston area. The group saw several individuals standing outside as they approached a home on L Street and believed it to be the party to which they were invited. After the truck was parked, the group walked into the party but were asked to leave because it was too crowded. They did so without incident. As the group was walking back to the truck, they encountered three individuals standing next to it. A fistfight ensued, and people poured out of the home on L Street, including 20-year-old Kevin Dahl. Fights broke out among several people, and Mr. McDonough became separated from his friends. Several members of the group from the home on L Street approached and surrounded Mr. McDonough, attacking him. Mr. Dahl struck Mr. McDonough on the back of the head with a golf club, knocking him to the ground. Mr. Dahl then jabbed Mr. McDonough repeatedly with the jagged end of a broken golf club and used it as a spear by impaling him. Other individuals also struck and kicked Mr. McDonough as he lay on the ground, pleading for them to stop. The attack lasted several minutes, at which point the attackers ran back into the home on L Street, leaving Mr. McDonough motionless on the ground. He died as a result of his injuries.

**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. Dahl, now 53-years-old, made his first appearance before the Board as a result of the Mattis decision. Mr. Dahl has a limited program history. He has not yet completed his GED. His employment history has been inconsistent. His disciplinary history reflects a history with substance misuse. The Board encourages Mr. Dahl to complete Correctional Recovery Academy (CRA), work towards his GED, and remain disciplinary report free. The Board considered testimony from 2 of Mr. Dahl's friends and 3 family members in support of parole. The Board considered testimony from Mr. McDonough's friend and 3 family members, as well as Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood, in opposition to parole. The Board concludes that Kevin Dahl 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

November 20, 2025  
Date