



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

KURVIN RICHARDSON
W94169

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: December 10, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: March 18, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander,¹ Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is granted to a facility that will meet his needs 45 days from the date of Decision.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On April 6, 2009, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Kurvin Richardson was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Noemi Roman. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Mr. Richardson 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. Richardson was re-sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

On December 10, 2025, Mr. Richardson appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Amy Belger. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Richardson's December 10, 2025, hearing.

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

² Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 31, 1990, 18-year-old Noemi Roman was beaten and stabbed to death in her Boston residence. At approximately 4:00 p.m., the Boston Fire Department forced entry into Ms. Roman's residence in response to a smoke alarm. Upon entering, they found a small child in a crib and Ms. Roman's body on the floor nearby. When Boston Police Officers were called to assist, they observed Ms. Roman's (visible) injuries to be blunt trauma to the head and face, as well as a single stab wound to the throat. The gas jets of the oven had been turned on, and various aerosol cans had been left smoldering in the oven. Several items of Ms. Roman's personal property were missing from the apartment, including her purse, wallet, and checkbook. An autopsy was performed, and samples of Ms. Roman's fingernails and scraping from underneath her fingernails were preserved for testing.

After no active leads, the case was referred to as a "cold case." In 2004, however, the Cold Case Division at the Boston Police Department conducted genetic testing on the preserved DNA found under Ms. Roman's fingernails. It was concluded that the DNA matched that of Kurvin Richardson. The investigation also revealed evidence linking Mr. Richardson to the use of Ms. Roman's calling card several months after her death.

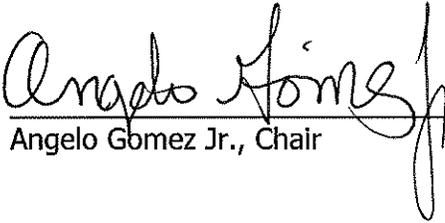
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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. Richardson is eligible for a parole hearing due to the Supreme Judicial Court's Mattis decision. Mr. Richardson has lost his vision, and he also has hearing loss. He is low risk on the LS/CMI risk assessment. Mr. Richardson was in the community for 15 years without incident before being charged with this offense. Mr. Richardson has strong support. The Board reviewed the evaluation of Dr. Guidry. Mr. Richardson has no history of disciplinary reports. He has completed his program requirements. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from members of the community, Dr. Guidry, and a social services specialist. The Board considered the testimony of Ms. Roman's family members and Suffolk County ADA Montez Haywood in opposition to parole. The Board concludes that Kurvin Richardson has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for disability/program; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or at Parole Officer's discretion; 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; Residential Program - Skilled Nursing Facility or somewhere that will meet his needs.

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 18, 2026
Date