

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RAMON LIBRAN

W42257

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 20, 2026

DATE OF DECISION: July 7, 2026

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

VOTE: Parole is granted on or after 2 weeks of issuance of Decision to an approved home plan.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On March 19, 1986, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Ramon Libran was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Michael Moronski. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was charged with two counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon and received one concurrent and one consecutive 9.5-to-10-year sentences.

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

On January 20, 2026, Mr. Libran appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Rebecca Rose and Attorney Patricia Garin. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Libran's January 20, 2026, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 23, 1984, Ramon Libran (age 18), stabbed 16-year-old Michael Maronski to death in Chelsea. On the evening of December 21, 1984, Mr. Libran had been involved in a fight at a function at the American Legion Hall in Chelsea. Over the next two nights, Mr. Libran and a group of his friends sought out the individuals involved in the fight. On

the second night, the group went to a party, where Mr. Libran and an accomplice accosted one of the attendees at knifepoint. Mr. Libran then informed the man that he was going to kill Mr. Maronski or three of Mr. Maronski's associates. Later that night, Mr. Libran and his friends found and attacked Mr. Maronski and two of Mr. Maronski's friends. Mr. Libran chased down Mr. Maronski and stabbed him. One of the stab wounds pierced Mr. Maronski's liver and right lung, causing him to die of a massive hemorrhage. After Mr. Libran and his friends returned to their car, Mr. Libran told the men that he had stabbed one of the men five or six times.

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.

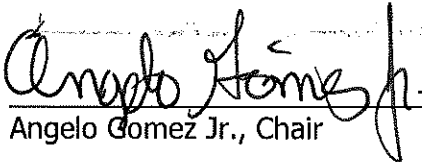
Where a parole candidate was convicted of first-degree murder for a crime committed when he was ages 18 through 20 years old, the Board considers the "unique aspects" of emerging adulthood that distinguish emerging adult offenders from older offenders. Commonwealth v. Mattis, 493 Mass. 216, 238 (2024). 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: This was Mr. Libran's first appearance before the Board. He was 18-years-old at the time of the offense; he is now 60-years-old and has served 42 years. Mr. Libran accepted responsibility for his offense and expressed remorse. The Board notes he was initially found not competent to stand trial. The Board relied on the expert neuropsychological evaluation by Dr. Nestor as a guide in conducting the hearing and understanding the limitations Mr. Libran had, and would have, in benefitting from specific programming. The Board also considered the expert forensic evaluation by Dr. DiCataldo in understanding the contributing factors that led to his offense and his current level risk/needs. Mr. Libran has not had any disciplinary reports since 2002. The Board recognizes Mr. Libran has complex mental health and cognitive issues that will require specialized treatment in the community. Mr. Libran has a

significant support system, who understands his needs and can assist him with his care. The Board also considered the reentry plan by Kim Mortimer that addresses his need areas and recommendations to meet such needs. The Board considered testimony from three members of Mr. Libran's family in support of parole. The Board also considered testimony from three members of Mr. Maronski's family, and one of his friends, in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Ramon Libran has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Approve home plan before release; Waive work for disability; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or PO's discretion; Electronic monitoring; Must take prescribed medication; 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 anxiety disorder and follow recommendations.

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 7, 2026
Date