

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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AMENDED RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

**MARCUS AMOS
W98282**

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 15, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: September 4, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

AMENDED VOTE²: Parole is granted to an approved home plan on or after 2 weeks from decision.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On March 17, 2011, in Middlesex Superior Court, Marcus Amos pleaded guilty to murder in the second-degree for the death of Keith McCoy. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he also pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a firearm, for which he received a concurrent sentence of 3 to 5 years and possession of ammunition without an FID card, for which he received a concurrent 2-year House of Correction sentence. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2023.

¹ Acting Chair Coleman participated in the hearing but was not on the Board at the time of vote.

² This is an amendment to the Parole Board's decision dated November 20, 2025, in which the Board imposed a condition that Mr. Amos serve six months in minimum security prior to his release. On August 18, 2026, Mr. Amos petitioned the Board for a reconsideration of this condition. After reviewing Mr. Amos's petition, the Board agreed to remove the required six months total in minimum security. The Board noted Mr. Amos was in minimum security for nearly four months and has met his adjustment needs. The Board amends its earlier decision to parole reserve to an approved home plan on or after 2 weeks from the date of the service of this decision, with all other parole conditions imposed at the time of the original decision to remain.

On July 15, 2025, Mr. Amos appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Ryan Schiff. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Amos' July 15, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On the night of September 1, 2008, Keith McCoy (age 28), went to the Mystic Avenue Projects to visit D.S.³ and her daughter. Mr. McCoy and D.S. had known each other for many years and had previously dated. However, at the time of the murder, D.S. was dating 20-year-old Marcus Amos. Mr. Amos, however, made it clear that he didn't want Mr. McCoy to become part of D.S.'s life again. The day before the murder, Mr. Amos found Mr. McCoy at D.S.'s house. On September 1, when Mr. McCoy again returned to D.S.'s house, both Mr. Amos and D.S. went outside to confront him. A verbal argument ensued. Surveillance video captured the incident, which depicted a heated conversation between them.

During much of the conversation, D.S. and Mr. McCoy talked directly to each other, and Mr. Amos was on the periphery. At one point, Mr. Amos walked away and moved his hand toward his waistband. As Mr. McCoy took off his sweatshirt, Mr. Amos fired a shot, and Mr. McCoy fell to the ground. Mr. Amos then fired 2 more shots at Mr. McCoy, who was still on the ground, before fleeing. Mr. McCoy died as a result of multiple gunshot wounds.

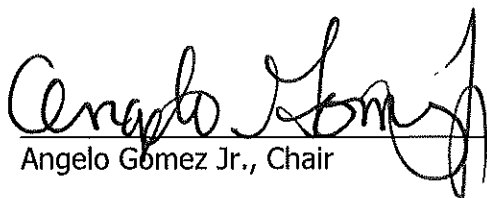
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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. Amos' second appearance before the Board. Since the last hearing, he has completed his Hi-Set, he has been disciplinary report free, and he has continued to engage in programming and self-development. Mr. Amos presented with insight and motivation for continued treatment in the community. Mr. Amos has a significant support system to assist with re-entry. The Board considered the forensic evaluation provided by Dr. Kinscherff, who deems Mr. Amos as low risk for violence and low risk for recidivism. He also testified that Mr. Amos does not have a mental illness, personality disorder, or substance use disorder. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from three members of the community and one of Mr. McCoy's family members. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from both a family member and a friend of Mr. McCoy, as well as Middlesex County Assistant District Attorney Alicia Walsh. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Marcus Amos 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 2 weeks; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; Must be home between 10PM and 6AM or curfew at PO discretion; 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

³ The name of this civilian witness is withheld for privacy purposes.

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

September 4, 2026
Date