



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

KENCHESTER MARTIN
W101797

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **March 19, 2026**

DATE OF DECISION: **September 15, 2026**

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

VOTE: Parole is granted to CRJ after 6 months in minimum security.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On December 10, 2012, in Norfolk County Superior court, Kenchester Martin pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree for the death of Osahon Ighodaro. On December 12, 2012, he was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Mr. Martin also pleaded guilty to two counts of unarmed robbery and one count of unarmed burglary, for which he was sentenced to 12-15 years in state prison, and one count of kidnapping, for which he was sentenced to 9-10 years in state prison, all to be served concurrently with his life sentence.² Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2024.

On March 19, 2026, Mr. Martin appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by an Attorney. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Martin's March 19, 2026, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On the morning of July 11, 2008, Holbrook police officers located 25-year-old Osahon Ighodaro deceased in his apartment. He had been hog tied and was found face-down on the floor. Another occupant of the apartment reported that on the previous evening, she heard someone knock on the door, followed by men entering the apartment

¹ Board Member Coughlin was recused and did not participate in the hearing or decision.

² All sentences were stayed until December 17, 2012.

screaming. They tied her up, and eventually she passed out. When she awoke the following morning, she untied herself, found Mr. Ighodaro's body, and ran out of the apartment to seek help. Investigators processed the scene for fingerprints and other forensic evidence and determined that several belongings and currency had been stolen from the apartment.

On May 6, 2009, one of Mr. Martin's co-defendants was arrested in Chelsea for an unrelated offense, the fingerprints he provided resulting from that arrest matched a latent print that had been lifted from the wall near Mr. Ighodaro's body. The other occupant of the apartment later identified the codefendant as one of the men who tied her up on the night of the murder. Upon arrest, multiple codefendants identified Mr. Martin as being involved in the murder.

In May 2009, Kenchester Martin was arrested on drug charges in Richland County, South Carolina. Despite giving law enforcement officials a false name, he was identified as Kenchester Martin and was returned to Massachusetts. Mr. Martin was 25-years-old at the time of the offense.

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: Mr. Martin appeared before the Board for the second time. He has been incarcerated 18 years and is 42 years old. Since the last hearing he has accepted the recommendations of the Board. He has completed programming related to his need areas including Alternatives to Violence and Restorative Justice. He has taken on leadership roles. He is also engaged in educational programming, in particular with Emerson’s Prison Initiative. He has a strong support system including a mentor who has been engaged with him for many years as well as mentors for his educational achievements. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Kenchester Martin has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board considered the July 2026 disciplinary report and finds the sanctions imposed by the DOC to be sufficient to address the matter. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from a licensed clinical social worker and Leah Wang and Janet James of the Massachusetts Parole Preparation Partnership. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from Norfolk County Assistant District Attorney Arne Hantson.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks or program; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM at PO’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; CRJ.

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 15, 2026
Date