

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

MIGUEL VALENTIN
W55389

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: June 17, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: November 5, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 1 year from the date of the hearing.¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On November 4, 1993, in Suffolk Superior Court, Miguel Valentin pleaded guilty to murder in the second-degree and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he received a concurrent term of 4 to 5 years after pleading guilty to unlawful possession of a firearm. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2007, and after his review hearings in 2013, 2018, and 2021. After his 2023 review hearing, Mr. Valentin was granted parole, but that vote was rescinded in 2024, following a disciplinary report. He was placed on the next available list for a hearing.

On June 17, 2025, Mr. Valentin appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Michael Nam-Krane. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Valentin's June 17, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 14, 1992, 17-year-old Miguel Valentin armed himself with a sawed-off shotgun and fatally shot 18-year-old Alexander Rodriguez in the streets of Jamaica Plain. Mr. Valentin and his brother were driving to their grandmother's house. As they drove past the Jackson MBTA station, they encountered a group of young men. They continued driving until a rock shattered the back window of their car. Mr. Valentin suspected that someone

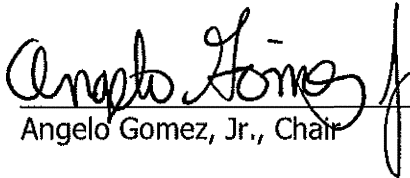
¹Three Board Members vote to grant parole, and three Board Members vote to deny parole. Due to a split vote, parole is denied with a review in 1 year from the date of the hearing.

in the group of young men threw the rock, and that they were members of a rival gang. Mr. Valentin and his brother went to a friend's house, where they acquired two sawed-off shotguns. A friend decided to join the two brothers in tracking down the gang members (whom they suspected) broke the car window. Eventually, they encountered Mr. Rodriguez in a convenience store in Jamaica Plain. As Mr. Rodriguez exited the store, Mr. Valentin and his brother and friend (who were armed with two sawed-off shotguns) approached him. Mr. Valentin shot Mr. Rodriguez three times. Witnesses reported seeing Mr. Valentin and his two accomplices running into Mr. Valentin's grandmother's house, where they were apprehended by police. Mr. Valentin confessed to the shooting of Mr. Rodriguez.

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. Valentin is before the Board after his positive parole vote in 2023 was rescinded due to the issuance of troubling disciplinary reports. This is his sixth appearance before the Board. He is now 50-years-old and has been incarcerated for 33 years. The Board is unable to reach a majority opinion on Mr. Valentin’s parole. Accordingly, when the Board has a split vote, parole is denied with a hearing in 1 year.

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

11-5-25
Date