



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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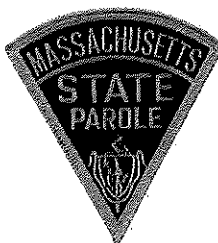
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Angelo Gomez, Jr.
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ABDUL-BARRE MUSTAFA
(FKA PAUL O'NEIL)
W37105

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: March 10, 2026

DATE OF DECISION: July 27, 2026

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

VOTE: Parole is granted to a Long-Term Residential Program (preferably Dismas or Crozier).¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On May 10, 1979, following a jury trial in Worcester Superior Court, Mustafa (O'Neil) was sentenced forthwith² to life in prison with the possibility of parole after being convicted of murder in the second degree for the death of Armand Patrick Robin III.

On March 4, 1990, Mr. Mustafa (O'Neil) escaped from custody from MCI-Lancaster (Minimum). He was apprehended four (4) days later on March 8, 1990, and returned to custody to MCI-Concord on March 9, 1990. While on escape status, he engaged in further criminal conduct.

On May 1, 1990, in Clinton District Court, Mr. Mustafa (O'Neil) was sentenced to a term of one (1) year in the House of Correction for escape. This sentence was ordered to be served from and after his life sentence.

On October 1, 1990, in Worcester Superior Court, Mr. Mustafa (O'Neil) was sentenced to a term of 2½ to 5 years for carrying a firearm without authority, a crime he committed while on escape status from his life sentence. This sentence was ordered to be served from and after all sentences

¹ One Board Member voted to deny parole.

² At the time of his sentencing for Murder, Mr. Mustafa (O'Neil) was serving a one-year HOC sentence after pleading guilty to charges of breaking and entering in the nighttime and larceny in Worcester Superior Court on January 26, 1979.

previously imposed (lodged as a warrant behind his life sentence). A charge of unlawful possession of ammunition was placed on file following the guilty plea.

Mr. Mustafa was denied parole after an initial hearing in 1995 and after review hearings in 1998, 2006, and 2011. After a review hearing in 2003, Mr. Mustafa was released on parole supervision but violated parole conditions and was returned to custody in 2005.

On March 10, 2026, Mr. Mustafa appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Stacey Marmor. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Mustafa's March 10, 2026, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 11, 1978, while on parole from convictions for breaking and entering in the nighttime and larceny, Paul O'Neil (aged 22) became involved in a violent confrontation with Armando Robin (aged 20). After a brief struggle, the inmate fatally stabbed Mr. Robin once in the chest. Although Mr. O'Neil initially fled, he turned himself into police several days later. He was ultimately convicted of second-degree murder.

In 1990, while incarcerated for the murder conviction, Mr. O'Neil escaped. He was apprehended four days later and found to be in possession of a firearm. He was subsequently convicted of both escape and unlawful possession of a firearm for which he received multiple from and after sentences.

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. Mustafa's original offense was in 1978. He was previously released on parole and after return to custody on drug offenses, has been incarcerated since 2005. He completed rehabilitative programming related to the causative factors of his offense. He has been disciplinary report free for over a decade. He has maintained steady employment through the Department of Correction as a utility worker. He reports that he has been sober since 2005 and also medication compliant. The Board considered the evaluation of Dr. Guidry. Mr. Mustafa has a re-entry plan which will address his need areas. The Board concludes that Abdul-Barre Mustafa has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board considered testimony of two of Mr. Robin's family members in opposition to parole, as well as the testimony of Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Danielle Borges.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks, program, or disability; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM; Electronic monitoring; 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 evaluation and follow recommendations; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; LTRP (Crozier or Dismas preferred); AA or NA 3 times a week.

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 27, 2026
Date