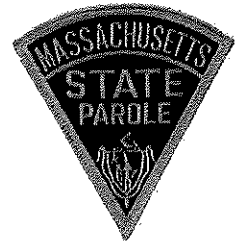


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

PATRICK GRIER
W96693

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: December 11, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: April 6, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander,¹ Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is granted on or after 1 year in minimum security to home or Dismas House.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 21, 2010, following a jury trial in Suffolk Superior Court, Patrick Grier was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of De'Andre Barboza. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was also convicted of possession of a firearm without a permit and received a 4-to-5-year sentence to be served concurrently with his life sentence.

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

On December 11, 2025, Mr. Grier appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Rosemary Scapicchio. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Grier's December 11, 2025, hearing.

¹ Board Member Alexander was not present for the hearing, but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

² Two Board Members voted to deny parole with a review in 2 years.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 1, 2008, 20-year-old Patrick Grier shot and killed 16-year-old De'Andre Barboza in Boston. On the evening of November 30, 2008, Mr. Grier and his co-defendant were at a store in Dorchester, where they encountered Mr. Barboza. Mr. Grier had a conversation with Mr. Barboza and afterwards appeared quiet and upset. The next morning, Mr. Grier met up with his co-defendant in Dorchester. As the pair were passing a market on Washington Street, they observed Mr. Barboza inside. Mr. Barboza subsequently exited the market, and both Mr. Grier and Mr. Barboza walked toward the street corner. When Mr. Barboza reached the corner, Mr. Grier shot him, causing him to fall to the ground. With Mr. Barboza on the ground, Mr. Grier continued to fire at him. One shot struck Mr. Barboza in the head, while two shots wounded his legs. Mr. Barboza was subsequently transported to Boston Medical Center by ambulance. He died two days later as the result of the gunshot wound to his head.

Immediately following the shooting, Mr. Grier and his co-defendant fled the scene. Mr. Grier threw the firearm he used to shoot Mr. Barboza at his co-defendant, telling her to take it. She caught the firearm, a .22 caliber revolver, and tucked it in her waistband before continuing to flee. Officers apprehended Mr. Grier and his co-defendant and recovered the firearm. Samples were taken from their hands, which tested positive for gunshot residue.

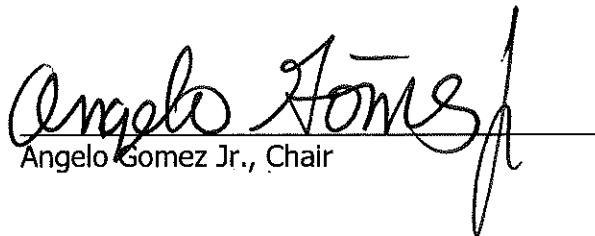
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole “[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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: Mr. Grier presented for the first time before the Board. He was 20-years-old at the time of the offense; he is now 37-years-old. Mr. Grier presented with insight into the causative factors that led to his gang affiliation and offending behavior. Mr. Grier began to invest in self-development prior to the Mattis decision, and furthered his rehabilitation by participating in and completing programs related to his need areas. Mr. Grier also invested in education – earning his associate’s degree. In an effort to prepare himself for re-entry, Mr. Grier also developed occupational skills. Mr. Grier’s LS/CMI is low and he established a release plan to meet his ongoing needs. Mr. Grier also has a support system to assist him with his transition. The Board considered the testimony of a social worker and Mr. Grier’s family members in support of parole. The Board considered the testimony of Mr. Barboza’s family members in opposition to parole. The Board concludes that Patrick Grier has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Approve home plan prior to release (preferred); Waive work for 2 weeks or program; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or at Parole Officer’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; Long term Residential Program (secondary).

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

April 6, 2026
Date