



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

PAUL SOLOMONSEN  
W58895

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** December 2, 2025

**DATE OF DECISION:** March 18, 2026

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

**VOTE:** Parole is granted to a Long-Term Residential Program on or after 2 weeks from issuance of decision but not before DA Clearance.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On June 29, 1995, in Bristol County Superior court, a jury found Paul Solomonsen guilty of second-degree murder in the death of Jeffrey Rosanina, as well as carrying a firearm. Mr. Solomonsen was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole for the murder and received a concurrent 4 to 5-year sentence for the firearm offense. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2009 and after a review hearing in 2024.<sup>2</sup>

On December 2, 2025, Mr. Solomonsen appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Northeastern University School of Law student attorneys Mary Chapin and Maggie Doldt under the supervision of Attorney Patricia Garin. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Solomonsen's December 2, 2025, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On April 28, 1994, Mr. Solomonsen, then 27 years old, awoke around 11:00 a.m. and consumed beer, cocaine, and a prescription medication. He continued to consume drugs and alcohol throughout the day. He then went to the Shark Club in New Bedford with a friend. They soon ran out of money and left in search of additional funds. The pair returned

<sup>1</sup> Board members Coughlin and Ortiz were not present for the hearing but reviewed all records and the video recording of the hearing prior to their vote.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Solomonsen was eligible for review hearings in 2013 and 2018 but elected to postpone them.

a short while later armed with three handguns and money. As closing time approached, Mr. Solomonsen and his friend, along with the other club patrons, began to leave. Outside, Mr. Solomonsen had words with Thomas Branquino (with whom he had tussled earlier in the evening), the bar manager, and some of the bouncers. He then produced and brandished a handgun and invited Mr. Branquino to "[expletive] with [him] now." The situation was defused and Mr. Solomonsen went across the street with his friend.

Jeffrey Rosanina, not previously involved in the conflict, left the Shark Club and walked toward the car. When Mr. Rosanina reached the car, Mr. Solomonsen was seated in the passenger seat with the passenger side door open. Mr. Rosanina walked up to Mr. Solomonsen, leaned his right elbow on the car's roof, and appeared to converse with Mr. Solomonsen. Others, including Mr. Rosanina's brother, set off after him, but, before they reached the car, two shots rang out: one bullet struck Mr. Rosanina in the chest and the other struck him in the head.

**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. Solomonsen's third hearing before the Board. He has been incarcerated for 31 years. Since the last hearing, Mr. Solomonsen has invested in continued programming which he appears to have benefited from. He has been sober for 29 years. His addiction was directly related to the offense. Mr. Solomonsen has had no violence in over 14 years. Mr. Solomonsen has invested in his mental health, accepted recommendations from the Board and presented with insight and a commitment to further treatment in the community. Mr. Solomonsen has family supports and the Board notes that the District Attorney's Office did not oppose parole. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from two of Mr. Solomonsen's family members. The Board also considered the testimony of Bristol County Assistant District Attorney Karen O'Sullivan, who testified that the District Attorney did not oppose parole, provided that the Board set appropriate conditions of release. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Paul Solomonsen has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** Waive work for 2 weeks or program; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM or 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, anxiety; Long Term Residential Program; AA at least 3 times per 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

March 18, 2026  
Date