



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RICARDO REYES
W80505

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: January 27, 2026

DATE OF DECISION: July 6, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander¹, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 2 years from the date of the hearing.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 21, 2002, in Essex Superior court, Ricardo Reyes pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree in the death of Juan Vasquez. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he pleaded guilty to armed robbery and received a concurrent 10-to-12-year sentence. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2022 and a review hearing in 2025.

On January 27, 2026, Mr. Reyes appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Shannon Lopez. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Reyes' January 27, 2026, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On December 30, 1997, 20-year-old Ricardo Reyes, along with his co-defendant, Israel Perez, robbed and killed 30-year-old Juan Vasquez, a taxicab driver in Methuen. The case was unsolved for two and a half years until investigations led to Mr. Reyes and Mr. Perez. They both made statements to police suggesting the following: On December 30, 1997, Mr. Perez and Mr. Reyes had a conversation about needing money. They hailed a cab, armed with a .22 caliber weapon, with the intent of robbing the driver. They pointed the gun at

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.

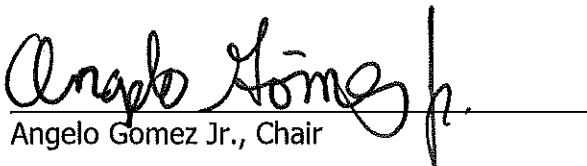
² Two Board Members voted to grant parole to ICE detainer.

the back of Mr. Vasquez's head and demanded his money. During the robbery, Mr. Perez shot Mr. Vasquez in the back of the head. The two men fled the taxi and were picked up by friends. They later went to a local bar and sold the murder weapon.

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. Reyes' third appearance before the Board. Following the most recent hearing, the Board recommended he gain further insight into his mental illness, the importance of complying with medication and treatment, and given ICE detainer, to establish a re-entry plan in the Dominican Republic that will meet all his needs. Mr. Reyes has a history of non-compliance with mental health treatment, which has been followed by rapid decompensation and need for hospitalization. The Board notes that he has made progress with both his insight and compliance with treatment. The Board also reconsidered the expert evaluation by Dr. DiCataldo in rendering its decision. The majority of the Board remains concerned with the length of time he has reached stabilization and believes a longer period of stabilization is necessary before release. In addition, the majority of the Board remains concerned that his release plan is uncertain, and the Board needs more confirmation that his medication and mental health needs will be met. The Board encourages him to have a clear understanding of his diagnosis, medications that are beneficial to him and to firm up his care and treatment in USA and Dominican Republic. The Board considered written testimony in support of parole from Mr. Reyes's daughter. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from Essex County Assistant District Attorney Emily Mello. The Board concludes that Ricardo Reyes has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

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 6, 2026
Date