



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security



PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RICHARD HAZARD
W59221

TYPE OF HEARING: Review Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: October 21, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: March 12, 2026

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

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review 2 years from the date of the hearing¹

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On September 11, 1995, after a jury trial in Bristol Superior Court, Richard Hazard was found guilty of the second-degree murder of 14-year-old Daniel Correia and sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole. That same day, he was also convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm and assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon. Mr. Hazard was sentenced to serve a concurrent term of 3 to 5 years for the firearm offense and a consecutive 3 to 5 year term for the assault. Parole was denied after an initial hearing in 2010 and after his review hearing in 2013. Parole was granted in 2017, and Mr. Hazard was returned to custody after a parole revocation in 2022. Parole was granted again in 2023, and he was returned to custody after another parole violation that same year. Parole was granted a third time in 2024, and he was returned to custody after another parole revocation that same year.

On October 21, 2025, Mr. Hazard appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by Attorney Christine Sunnerberg. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Hazard's, October 21, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On April 15, 1994, at about 3:00 p.m., Scott Rose, Richard Hazard (then 28-years-old), Timothy Reaves, and Michael Coull went to Magnet Park (outside a New Bedford housing project) in Mr. Rose's Lincoln Town Car. Mr. Hazard went up to an 18-year-old

¹ One Board member voted to deny parole with a review 3 years from the date of the hearing.

man and asked if he had any dope (heroin) for sale. Mr. Hazard and the 18-year-old man then walked toward Mr. Rose, Mr. Reaves, and Mr. Coull, all of whom were waiting near the Lincoln. An altercation ensued, and a witness heard Mr. Rose say, "We'll be back."

Two hours later, at about 5:00 p.m., the four men appeared at a house in Taunton, where Mr. Rose asked one of his friends to borrow a gun. The friend handed the gun and some green shells to Mr. Rose. At about 7:00 p.m., the 18-year-old man was in Magnet Park with his 14-year-old brother Daniel and some other friends. The brothers were leaning on a white car, talking. The 18-year-old man heard tires screeching and, when he looked up, saw the Lincoln driving past. The driver's side faced toward him. He saw a big pistol coming out of the rear driver side window, heard shots, and saw flashes from both driver side windows. He saw Mr. Rose, the driver, leaning back in his seat as he drove. The 18-year-old man and Daniel started to run when they heard the shots. As they took off, the 18-year-old man was struck in the leg and Daniel was struck in the heart.

After an extensive chase, Mr. Hazard and the others were apprehended in Taunton. At the time of the shooting, Mr. Hazard was the front seat passenger in the Lincoln and was observed with a shotgun in his hand. Daniel had been shot with a 9mm gun, which had been in Mr. Reaves' possession.

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. Hazard appeared before the Board after a revocation of his parole. His actions which led to the revocation demonstrate not simply poor judgment, but an inability to comply with the conditions of his parole. This is Mr. Hazard's third return to custody in the last 3 years. The Board remains concerned with regard to Mr. Hazard's candor and his inability to establish appropriate boundaries. Mr. Hazard is high risk on the LS/CMI risk assessment tool. The Board heard testimony from Deborah Butler, LICSW in support of parole. The Board concludes that Mr. Hazard 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

March 12, 2026
Date