

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

RICKEY ALFORD
W59381

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **June 16, 2025**

DATE OF DECISION: **November 19, 2025**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

VOTE: Parole is granted to Interstate Compact (Louisiana), but not before 9 months total in lower custody.²

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On October 5, 1995, in Worcester Superior Court, Rickey Alford pleaded guilty to murder in the second-degree and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On July 30, 1999, in the Parish of Orleans District Court, in the State of Louisiana, Mr. Alford also pleaded guilty to an unrelated manslaughter charge. He received a 15-year sentence to run concurrently with his life sentence in Massachusetts.³ Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2010, and after his review hearings in 2015, 2020, and 2023.

On June 16, 2025, Mr. Alford appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Alford's June 16, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On February 16, 1995, the body of 56-year-old Julio Suarez was found in an Andover parking lot by employees of a local company. The autopsy report determined that Mr. Suarez died from multiple blows to the skull by a blunt object. After an investigation,

¹ Board Member Ortiz 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.

³ Mr. Alford's manslaughter sentence expired in 2015.

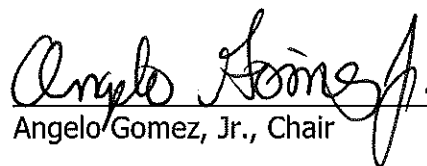
police were led to three individuals: Rickey Alford, Jose Enrique Rivera, and Miguel Rios. One of the co-defendants revealed that Mr. Alford had stated (prior to the murder) that he wanted to kill Mr. Suarez because of a dispute involving theft. Both co-defendants said that Mr. Alford lured Mr. Suarez into his apartment by claiming he had a phone call. Once inside, Mr. Alford severely beat him with a baseball bat. After beating Mr. Suarez to death, Mr. Alford dragged his body to the bathtub and then cleaned the blood from the rug. The next morning, Mr. Rivera helped Mr. Alford wrap the body and move it to a van. They drove to Andover, where they dumped the body in a parking lot. Mr. Alford paid each of his co-defendants \$200 with the money he stole from Mr. Suarez's wallet.

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 is Mr. Alford's fifth appearance before the Board. He is now 60 years old and has been incarcerated for 30 years. He has had only one minor disciplinary report during the entire time of his incarceration. Since Mr. Alford's last appearance before the Board, he has addressed the Board's concerns raised at that time and completed numerous programs, including Victim Impact, Violence Reduction, and other programs. The Board concludes that Rickey Alford has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. In rendering their decision, the Board considered public testimony in opposition to parole from Mr. Suarez's daughters and son, as well as Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Anne Kennedy.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Release to Other Authority - New Orleans; Waive work for 2 weeks; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; curfew between 10PM and 6AM at parole officer discretion; 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, PTSD.

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

11-19-25
Date