



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ROBERT MORGANTI, JR.
W82045

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: September 18, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: February 18, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz¹

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

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 13, 2002, after a jury trial in Plymouth Superior Court, Robert Morganti was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Anthony LoConte. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.³

Mr. Morganti 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 Mr. Morganti's first-degree murder conviction, he was re-sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

On September 18, 2025, Mr. Morganti appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Gilbert Nason. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Morganti's September 18, 2025, hearing.

¹ Board Member Bonner 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 an approved home plan after six months in lower security.

³ Robert Morganti, Jr. fled the state of Massachusetts in 1988 after the murder and was a fugitive for over 12 years. He was arrested in California on March 16, 2000, under an alias.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On May 10, 1988, 19-year-old Robert Morganti shot and killed 24-year-old Anthony LoConte. Earlier that day, Mr. Morganti sought the help of J.F.⁴ in obtaining cocaine. J.F., however, devised a scheme in which he would trick Mr. Morganti into paying him for what he would mistakenly believe to be one-quarter kilogram of cocaine. J.F. traveled with Mr. Morganti to Mr. LoConte's home. J.F. entered Mr. LoConte's home alone, gathered various items, and placed the package in a brown paper bag. J.F. then returned to the vehicle with the paper bag. Mr. Morganti gave J.F. \$10,500, and J.F. handed Mr. Morganti the package, which purportedly contained cocaine. Mr. Morganti drove off, and J.F. returned to Mr. LoConte's home and gave him \$2,000. Five minutes later, Mr. Morganti returned to Mr. LoConte's home and angrily demanded the return of his money. Mr. LoConte raced out the front door.

That evening, an eyewitness saw a vehicle slow down in front of his home and come to a complete stop. After the vehicle left, he observed Mr. LoConte lying on the ground, still breathing and moaning. Emergency medical technicians arrived and found Mr. LoConte unconscious. He did not survive, and a subsequent autopsy revealed that the cause of death was a gunshot wound to the head. That evening and the following day, Mr. Morganti made statements to various witness assuming responsibility for the shooting, stating that he had been ripped off and wanted his money back. He was observed with blood on his face and clothing in the hours following the murder. The vehicle he was traveling in on the evening of the murder was located with a significant amount of blood. It was tested and found to match Mr. LoConte's DNA profile.

A homicide warrant was issued against Mr. Morganti the day after the murder, but for the next 12 years he remained a fugitive. On March 16, 2000, Mr. Morganti was arrested in California for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. At the time of the arrest, he was carrying a driver's license in the name of Roderick Grinage. A query of his information revealed various aliases, along with a homicide warrant. The fingerprints of "Roderick Grinage" were positively identified as the fingerprints of Mr. Morganti.

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.

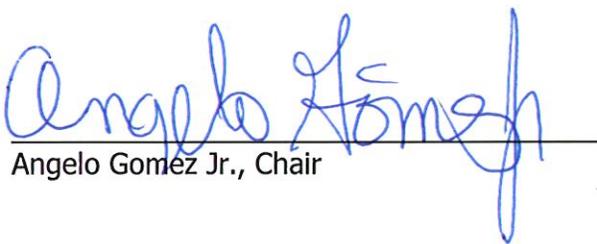
Where a parole candidate was convicted of first-degree murder for a crime committed when he was ages 18 through 20 years old, the Board considers the "unique aspects" of emerging adulthood that distinguish emerging adult offenders from older offenders. Commonwealth v. Mattis, 493 Mass. 216, 238 (2024). Individuals who were emerging adults at the time of the offense must be afforded a "meaningful opportunity to obtain release based on demonstrated

⁴ The names of witnesses are withheld.

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. Morganti was convicted of murder in the first degree and became parole eligible based on the Mattis decision as he was 19 years-old at the time of the offense. He is now 56 years-old. Mr. Morganti needs to invest in rehabilitative programming. The majority of the Board finds that he has not yet reached the legal standard for parole. The majority of the Board has concerns regarding his behavior and his flight to California after the murder. Mr. Morganti has multiple disciplinary reports. He has enrolled in the Hi-Set program and maintained employment. The Board encourages Mr. Morganti to engage in programming to address his need areas, including programming related to Victim Empathy and Criminal Thinking. The Board considered the testimony of Dr. Julie Nason, as well as Mr. Morganti’s family and friends, in support of parole. The Board considered verbal and written testimony from Mr. LoConte’s family in opposition to parole. The Board also considered the opposition testimony of Plymouth County ADA Arne Hanston. The Board concludes that Robert Morganti 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

February 18, 2026
Date