



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Chair*

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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**NATALIE RODRIGUEZ**  
**F81734**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** January 27, 2026

**DATE OF DECISION:** July 1, 2026

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander,<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On April 11, 2006, in Suffolk Superior Court, Natalie Rodriguez pleaded guilty to kidnapping and second-degree murder in the death of Xavier Antonio Miranda. She was sentenced to 14 to 15 years in state prison for kidnapping and sentenced to life with the possibility of parole on the murder conviction, to be served from and after the kidnapping sentence.

On January 27, 2026, Ms. Rodriguez appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. She was represented by Attorney Amy Belger. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Ms. Rodriguez's January 27, 2026, hearing.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** Natalie Rodriguez (age 20) murdered 8-month-old Xavier Miranda in Chelsea on December 8, 2002. At the time of the murder, Ms. Rodriguez was living with the child's family, although she had been informed that she was no longer permitted to live at the apartment due to her drinking. In the early morning hours of December 8, Ms. Rodriguez removed the child from her crib in his parents' bedroom and brought him outside to a neighbor's driveway. Ms. Rodriguez put the child face-down in a snowbank and repeatedly slashed his neck

<sup>1</sup> Board Member Alexander was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

<sup>2</sup> Two Board Members voted to grant parole to an LTRP, and one Board Member voted to deny parole with a review in 5 years.

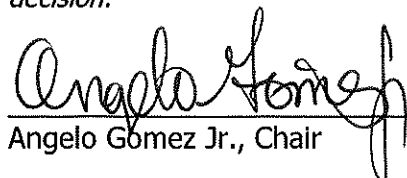
with a knife, severing his spinal cord and killing him. She then tried to hide the body beneath a garbage barrel. She returned to her bedroom and hid the knife in a dresser.

Later that morning, the family alerted the police that the child was missing. After his body was found, police questioned the residents of the apartment, including Ms. Rodriguez. Ms. Rodriguez admitted that she had killed the infant, and that she had done so because she was upset about her eviction and the preferential attention the infant had been receiving over her own son.

**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 Ms. Rodriguez’s first appearance before the Board. Ms. Rodriguez was 20-years-old at the time of the offense. She is now 43-years-old. Ms. Rodriguez had a difficult adjustment following the offense. She was evaluated and treated at Taunton State Hospital pre-trial for mental health issues. She struggled earlier in her incarceration with behavioral issues secondary to a myriad of factors as identified in the forensic evaluation provided by Dr. Guidry. Since approximately 2015, Ms. Rodriguez appeared to stabilize and began to increase programming directly related to need areas. She also achieved her Bachelor of Arts in 2018, acquired Occupational Skills training, and has participated in Restorative Justice. She does appear to have benefitted from her investment in rehabilitation and appropriate Mental Health treatment. While the majority of the Board agrees that she has made progress, the Board is also of the opinion that a longer period of disciplinary report free [incarceration] is necessary before consideration of parole. The majority of the Board also considered the nature of the offense and questioned whether Ms. Rodriguez has developed meaningful insight as to why she committed the offense. The Board considered the expert evaluation and testimony by Dr. Guidry as well as all public testimony in rendering its decision. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from two members of Ms. Rodriguez’s family. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from the child’s aunt and uncle, as well as Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney Montez Haywood. The Board concludes that Natalie Rodriguez has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make her 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.*

  
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Angelo Gomez Jr., Chair

July 1, 2026

~~July 2, 2026~~

Date