



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ROGER DEW, JR.
W70471

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: September 9, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: March 3, 2026

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

VOTE: Parole is granted to CRJ or Brie's House 2 weeks after date of Decision.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On January 25, 2002, following a jury trial in Suffolk County Superior Court, Roger Dew was convicted of murder in the first-degree for the death of Ovid McIver. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was also sentenced to a concurrent term of 4 to 5 years for unlawful possession of a firearm.

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

On September 9, 2025, Mr. Dew appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Michael Reinhardt. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Dew's September 9, 2025 hearing.

¹ Board Member Coughlin was not present for the hearing but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: During the early morning hours of January 30, 1999, 42-year-old Ovid McIver was shot and killed by 19-year-old Roger Dew, Jr. in the vestibule of a rooming house in Boston. Hours prior, Mr. McIver and a group of friends went to the rooming house intending to buy cocaine. While there, the group was introduced to Mr. Dew, a known drug dealer. A sale was made between Mr. Dew and a friend of Mr. McIver's, who displayed a large amount of cash to Mr. Dew and requested more cocaine. Mr. Dew agreed to find more and left the house. After waiting for approximately 30 minutes, Mr. McIver and his friends decided to leave the house. Near the front door, the group encountered Mr. Dew, who asked whether they still wanted cocaine. Mr. McIver, and the friend who had made the request, walked with Mr. Dew into the vestibule near the stairway and closed the front door.

Once inside the vestibule, Mr. Dew pulled out a gun and demanded money. Mr. McIver's friend gave Mr. Dew what cash he had. Mr. Dew then aimed the gun at both Mr. McIver and his friend. Mr. McIver lunged at Mr. Dew, grabbed his wrist, and wrestled him on the stairs. Within moments, Mr. Dew managed to regain control of the weapon, pointed it at Mr. McIver, and shot him once in the stomach. Emergency services were called, and Mr. McIver was transported to a hospital, where he died from the gunshot wound.

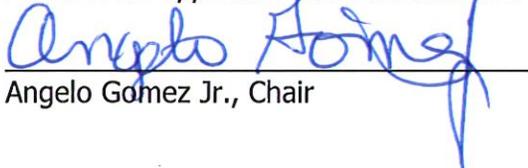
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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 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.

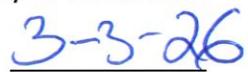
DECISION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Dew was before the Board for his initial hearing after the Supreme Judicial Court's Mattis decision. Mr. Dew is 45-years-old and is currently living in a lower security facility. He has received no disciplinary reports in eight years and no violence related incidents for over two decades. He earned his Hi-Set. He has received vocational training in the Automotive and Welding Programs. Substance use has not been an area of concern for him, while incarcerated. He has demonstrated insight into his patterns of behaviors, which were directly related to adverse childhood experiences and socioeconomic factors. He has a release plan which will support his re-entry needs. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from a social worker, as well as lifelong friends of Mr. Dew, including one who is the founder of Project Turnaround. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Roger Dew has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for 2 weeks or program; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM for 6 months; Electronic monitoring for 6 months; 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; May have contact with [named individuals]; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment; Residential Program - CRJ or Brie's House; Mandatory: Must resolve probate court warrant within one month after release.

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



Date