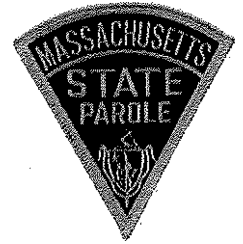




The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

ROY DANCY
W87205

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 29, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: January 12, 2026

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr., James Kelcourse¹

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

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On February 28, 2006, in Hampden Superior Court, Roy Dancy pleaded guilty to murder in the second-degree for the death of Gregory Holmes. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was convicted of two counts of possession of ammunition, with two prior convictions, and received (two) 10–15-year sentences, to be served concurrently with his life sentence. To date, Mr. Dancy has been convicted of six crimes while incarcerated. Five of those charges are Assault and Battery on a Corrections Officer and one is Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon. The charges resulted in one 30-day concurrent sentence in May 2008 and another six-month concurrent sentence in August 2024. All sentences, except for the second-degree life sentence, have since expired.

On July 29, 2025, Mr. Dancy appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project Student Attorneys Anindu Rentala and Ivan Pusic, as supervised by Attorney Joel Thompson. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Dancy's July 29, 2025, hearing.

¹ Former Acting Chair Coleman participated in the hearing but departed the Board prior to the vote in this matter. Board Member Ortiz was not present at the hearing. The Chair deemed Board Member Ortiz unavailable for the vote on this matter because, due to a malfunction in the Board's audio equipment, he was unable to review the full record of the public hearing.


STATEMENT OF THE CASE: On November 24, 2004, Roy Dancy, 21-years-old, shot and killed 22-year-old Gregory Holmes in Springfield. That evening, Springfield police responded to a 911 call for gunshots fired on Mill Street. When officers arrived, they found Mr. Holmes suffering from a gunshot wound to his leg. The bullet had severed Mr. Holmes' femoral artery and, despite lifesaving efforts, he ultimately succumbed to this injury.

A short time later, Springfield police responded to a second 911 call for what appeared to be a stabbing on Longhill Street. When officers arrived, they found Mr. Dancy suffering from a gunshot wound to his left foot. As police questioned him about his wound, Mr. Dancy made incriminating statements indicating that he had has been involved in the shooting of Mr. Holmes on Mill Street. Police also recovered the firearm used in the shooting at the Longhill Street scene. Witnesses to the Mill Street shooting positively identified Mr. Dancy as the shooter.

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 Mr. Dancy's initial hearing before the Board. Mr. Dancy has been incarcerated for over 19 years and has spent the majority of his incarceration in maximum security with the exception of 11 months. Mr. Dancy has committed six crimes while incarcerated, five of which were convictions for assault and battery on correction officers. Mr. Dancy has minimal investment in self-development or rehabilitation. The Board does note, however, he has a fifth-grade education and appeared to present with significant cognitive issues. He was represented by counsel. The Board is of the opinion that a forensic evaluation that includes cognitive testing will be beneficial to assist Mr. Dancy and the Board with understanding his needs and recommended treatment. Mr. Dancy stated he knows he has more work to do and stated he hopes he gets the help he needs. The Board encourages Mr. Dancy to engage in rehabilitative opportunities that would assist him and to work with his attorneys to pursue a forensic evaluation. The Board considered the testimony of three individuals in support of parole. The Board also considered the testimony of Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Lee Baker in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Roy Dancy 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

January 12, 2026
Date