



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

PAROLE BOARD

12 Mercer Road
Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Gina K. Kwon
Secretary

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4598



Angelo Gomez, Jr.
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

BENJAMIN SERRANO
W88646

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **February 10, 2026**

DATE OF DECISION: **July 9, 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 but not before 90 days in minimum security.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On November 8, 2006, following a jury trial in Essex Superior Court, Benjamin Serrano was found guilty of the second-degree murder of Aneury "Willie" Guzman. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, he was also convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm and received a 4-to-5-year concurrent sentence. The Appeals Court affirmed his conviction, and the Supreme Judicial Court denied further appellate review. Mr. Serrano filed two motions for new trial, both of which were denied at the trial court level. As to the first motion for new trial, the Appeals Court affirmed the trial judge's denial, and the Supreme Judicial Court denied further appellate review. The Appeals Court dismissed Mr. Serrano's appeal of the denial of second motion for new trial. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2019 and review hearing in 2024.

On February 10, 2026, Mr. Serrano appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was represented by two student Attorney's from the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Program under the supervision of Attorney Joel Thompson. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Serrano's February 10, 2026, hearing.

¹ Chair Gomez Jr. 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: In October 2003, while Mr. Serrano was incarcerated due to a prior offense, his girlfriend broke up with him and later began dating Mr. Guzman. Upon his release from custody in February 2004, Mr. Serrano began to harass his ex-girlfriend and Mr. Guzman, both by telephone and in person. During these encounters, he threatened to kill Mr. Guzman, his ex-girlfriend, and members of his ex-girlfriend's family. On the night of April 1, 2004, Mr. Serrano (age 26) went to his ex-girlfriend's apartment with his co-defendant, Luis Penn. Informed that his ex-girlfriend was not at home, Mr. Serrano returned outside, where he observed Mr. Guzman's car. He engaged in a verbal altercation with two unarmed men seated in the car (neither of whom were Mr. Guzman), before showing them a gun and telling them to leave. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Guzman (age 26) emerged from the apartment and stepped between Mr. Serrano and the two unarmed men.

Mr. Serrano summoned Mr. Penn and gave him the gun and then proceeded to punch Mr. Guzman in the face. Mr. Penn then pointed the gun at the two unarmed men, one of whom managed to leave the scene. Mr. Guzman broke away from the physical altercation with Mr. Serrano, only to engage in an argument with Mr. Penn for less than a minute. Mr. Penn then shot Mr. Guzman in the head, killing him.

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: Mr. Serrano appeared for the third time before the Board. Mr. Serrano has served nearly 22 years for his involvement in the governing offense. His co-defendant was the shooter, and Mr. Serrano was convicted under the joint venture theory. The Board had concerns at the last hearing about the domestic violence aspect of the offense and since his last hearing he has completed ACCI and PERP domestic violence courses in addition to five other programs. Mr. Serrano has not received any disciplinary reports in the last 7 years. In his 22 years of incarceration, he only received 4 disciplinary reports. He reports he has been sober throughout his entire period of incarceration. He is employed in the laundry unit. Mr. Serrano has family support in the community and has employment plans. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from 2 members of Mr. Serrano's family. The Board also considered testimony in opposition to parole from Essex County Assistant District Attorney Matthew Patalano. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Benjamin Serrano has demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS: Waive work for when program allows; Must be home between 10 PM and 6 AM PO's discretion; 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; Must have mental health counseling for adjustment, healthy relationships; CRJ for at least 90 days.

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

July 9, 2026
Date