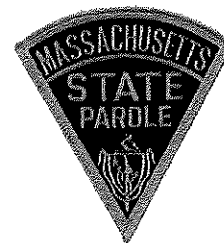




*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*

**PAROLE BOARD**

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*Natick, Massachusetts 01760*



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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**  
**YOSHIO STACKERMAN**  
**W107971**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Initial Hearing

**DATE OF HEARING:** March 17, 2026

**DATE OF DECISION:** August 12, 2026

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Edith J. Alexander, 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.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY:** On July 17, 2016, after a jury trial in Essex Superior Court, Yoshio Stackerman was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Robert Gonzalez. He was sentenced to serve life in prison with the possibility of parole from and after the sentence he was serving at the time of his conviction.<sup>1</sup>

On March 17, 2026, Mr. Stackerman appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Boston College student attorneys under the supervision of Attorney Frank Herrmann. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Stackerman's March 17, 2026, hearing.

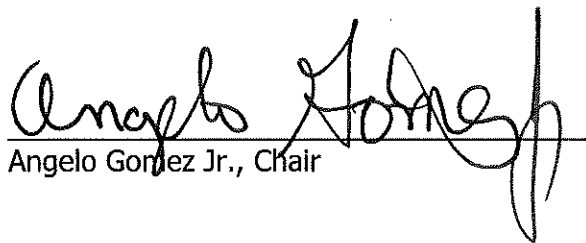
**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:** On January 10, 2009, 25-year-old Yoshio Stackerman, along with his co-defendants, participated in the shooting death of Robert Gonzalez in Lawrence. Mr. Gonzalez was fatally shot in the back as he sat in his parked minivan on Hampton Street. Surveillance footage captured four men exiting a vehicle and surrounding the minivan. Two of the men, one of whom was Mr. Stackerman, fired a total of 12 bullets into the minivan. Investigation revealed that in the days leading up to the murder, there had been conflict between Mr. Gonzalez and one of the four men. The shooting appeared to have been an act of revenge.

**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. Stackerman presented for his initial hearing before the Board. He was 25 years old at the time of the offense. He is now 41 years old and has served 16 years. He was serving a 3 ½ to 6-year sentence for possession of Class A with intent to distribute when convicted of his sentence now serving. Mr. Stackerman has a total of 12 disciplinary reports, including several for violence. His last violent disciplinary report was in 2018. Mr. Stackerman has engaged in some programming to address his need areas, and he is enrolled in higher education through Boston College. The Board, however, found his version of the offense to be inconsistent with the evidence and is recommending additional work in the area of Victim Empathy. Mr. Stackerman is also encouraged to continue to invest in Conflict Resolution Skills, so that he can demonstrate a longer period of positive adjustment. The Board considered testimony from Mr. Stackerman's aunt in support of parole. The Board also considered the testimony of Essex County Assistant District Attorney David O'Sullivan in opposition to parole. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Yoshio Stackerman 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

August 12, 2026  
Date