



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 Kwon
Secretary

Telephone: (508)-650-4500

Facsimile: (508)-650-4599

Angelo Gomez, Jr.
Chair

Lian Hogan
Executive Director

RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

STEPHEN RICHMOND
W34956

TYPE OF HEARING: Initial Hearing

DATE OF HEARING: July 8, 2025

DATE OF DECISION: November 20, 2025

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Sarah B. Coughlin, Angelo Gomez Jr.,¹ James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 3 years from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 11, 1975, following a jury trial in Worcester Superior Court, Stephen Richmond was convicted of murder in the first-degree of 17-year-old E.N.² and was sentenced to death. On that same date, Mr. Richmond was convicted of one count of rape and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Following a successful appeal, the SJC overturned the convictions, and Mr. Richmond was tried again in Worcester Superior Court. On March 2, 1977, Mr. Richmond was again convicted of murder in the first degree and one count of rape. He was sentenced to concurrent life sentences without the possibility of parole, which were ordered to be served concurrently with sentences he was then serving for two additional sexual assaults (an 8 to 10 year state prison sentence for assault with intent to rape from Barnstable Superior Court and a 7 to 10 year state prison sentence for rape, kidnapping, and armed robbery from Worcester Superior Court).

¹ Chair Gomez was not present for the hearing, but reviewed the video recording of the hearing and the entirety of the file prior to vote. Board Member Coleman participated in the hearing, but was not on the Board at the time of vote.

² The victim's name is withheld pursuant to G.L. c. 265 § 24C.

Stephen Richmond 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 in regard to his first-degree murder conviction, Mr. Richmond was re-sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 15 years.

On July 8, 2025, Mr. Richmond appeared before the Board for an initial hearing. He was represented by Attorney Deirdre Thurber. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Richmond's July 8, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: In the early morning hours of January 11, 1975, Stephen Richmond (age 19) raped and murdered 17-year-old E.N. in Paxton. Earlier that night, E.N. had attended a party with her friends, and then went to her friend's house. At approximately 3:45 a.m., E.N. left her friend's house and was driving back to her parent's home in Worcester when she was struck by a car operated by Mr. Richmond. Mr. Richmond, who had not previously met E.N., argued with her at the scene of the accident and then dragged her, screaming, into his car. He then drove to an isolated area in Paxton, where he severely beat, raped, and strangled her. Mr. Richmond then left her body on the side of the road, where it was found several days later. During an interview with Worcester police, Mr. Richmond admitted that he had murdered E.N.

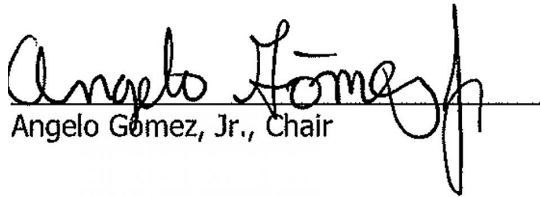
APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain 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. Richmond came before the Board for a hearing pursuant to the Mattis decision. He has been incarcerated for 50 years. The Board considered the evaluation of Dr. Nelligan, as well as the court's finding of the characteristics of the emerging adult brain. The Board remains concerned regarding his lack of accountability and insight. The Board considered Mr. Richmond's age and health in providing for a 3 year review. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Stephen Richmond has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board considered testimony in support of parole from Mr. Richmond's friends and nephew. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from E.N.'s sister and three friends, as well as Worcester County Assistant District Attorney Donna Haran.

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

November 20, 2025
Date