

# 2025 Legislative Report Supervised Release Board

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## Supervised Release Board Historical Background

### **Prior to the establishment of the Supervised Release Board (SRB):**

From the early 1980s through June 2024, the Commissioner of Corrections had the sole decision-making authority for granting or denying parole to those sentenced to serve life with the possibility of parole in Minnesota. This process was supported by an advisory panel composed of Department of Corrections (DOC) staff, including deputy commissioners, the warden of the facility where the parole candidate was housed, and the executive officer of the DOC's Hearings and Release Unit (HRU). Over the decades, the frequency of parole releases varied greatly, but the overall number of parole releases has been growing as the number of individuals given life sentences has increased. Parole review is now more robust, bolstered by correctional research and the development of risk assessment tools.

### **Establishment of the Supervised Release Board (SRB):**

Effective July 1, 2024, the Supervised Release Board (SRB) was given the authority to grant parole to individuals after they have served their minimum term of imprisonment, also known as reaching their Parole Eligibility Date (PED). The individuals subject to SRB review are juveniles who have been certified as adults, individuals who are designated Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile (EJJ) and have had their adult stayed sentence revoked and executed, indeterminate/life-sentenced individuals, and certain criminal sexual conduct offenders

### **Life Sentences in Minnesota:**

Under Minnesota law, life sentences are permitted for only a small number of offenses including premeditated murder (Minn. Stat. §§ 609.185; 609.2661; 609.109) and certain egregious sex offenses (Minn. Stat. § 609.3455). Individuals sentenced to life without the possibility of release are not eligible for parole. Individuals sentenced to life must serve a minimum term before being eligible for parole. Since 1989, a life sentence in Minnesota has required serving a mandatory minimum term of 30 years in DOC custody, followed by community supervision extending up to the end of the person's natural life. Prior to 1989, the minimum term was 17 years. In 2005, the Minnesota legislature established life sentences for certain repeat sexual offenses with varying mandatory minimum terms before release eligibility.

### **Individuals Sentenced to Incarceration as Juveniles:**

In 2012, the United States Supreme Court ruled that a sentencing scheme that imposes a *mandatory* life sentence without the possibility of parole on a juvenile is unconstitutional. The decision recognizes the differences in brain development between juveniles and adults and has led many states to revise their laws to require individuals who were sentenced to life as juveniles to be eligible for periodic review. A new Minnesota law passed during the 2023 legislative session takes brain development into consideration. The law now requires the SRB to review cases of those sentenced as juveniles to 15 years or more, including those sentenced to life, and consider the person for possible release. (In Minnesota, juveniles can receive sentences of incarceration after being certified as adults, or after being designated EJJ and having their adult stayed sentence revoked and imposed.) The law also allows the SRB to collapse court-imposed consecutive sentences under certain conditions. Consecutive sentences are multiple sentences that must be served one after the other. This is in contrast to concurrent sentencing which requires that a person serves multiple sentences at the same time.

### **Supervised Release Board membership:**

The SRB consists of five regular members, including the Commissioner of Corrections, who serves as the board chair. These members, who serve staggered terms, are appointed by the Governor after receiving

recommendations from the Minnesota House and Senate majority and minority leaders. Additionally, two members with backgrounds in youth development or psychology are included when the board considers cases involving individuals sentenced to incarceration as juveniles. The two youth specialists are also appointed by the Governor.

**Initial Review:**

The Supervised Release Board conducts an initial review of the incarcerated individual's readiness for release three (3) years before they reach their minimum term of imprisonment and then at intervals determined by the Board. **There is no statutory provision that allows for release prior to the minimum eligibility date, and this review hearing does not include consideration of such an action.**

The Board considers information collected from facility staff, the community where the individual was sentenced, and any surviving family members of the victim. At the reviews, the Board either assigns a projected release date or continues the case with directives to be completed prior to the next review. Each review is evaluated individually, with treatment and programming recommendations unique to that individual.

**Deciding factors:**

The SRB considers twelve legislatively designated factors when making parole or supervised release decisions, including community investigation reports completed by a supervision agent in the community where the crime was committed, victim statements, law enforcement and prosecutor input, risk assessments, treatment history and progress, behavior while incarcerated, psychological evaluations, rehabilitation efforts, criminal history, neurological development in cases involving individuals who were juveniles when incarcerated and any other relevant conduct.

While Minnesota law provides the opportunity for release from court-imposed indeterminate sentences, release is not presumed. Supervised release or parole decisions by the SRB are made by a majority vote (or quorum) of the members. If the case being considered is one involving an individual sentenced as a juvenile when they committed their offense and were sentenced as an adult, at least one of the two members with the required juvenile expertise must be present and voting in the case. In the event of a tie, the vote of the Commissioner of Corrections (Chair) determines the outcome.

If parole or supervised release is denied, the SRB must provide the individual with recommendations for participation in programs and services that would increase the likelihood of future release.

**Victim involvement:**

It is important to note that victims have a specific statutory role in the process and may provide input in various forms. Victims can provide the SRB with written input, they can request to meet with the members of the SRB in private, or they can attend the public meeting to make their statement.

## Supervised Release Board Annual Reporting Requirements

Minnesota Statute § 244.049, subd. 5, requires the SRB to report to the Legislature annually as follows. This section addresses each of the statutory requirements.

Subd. 5. Report. (a) Beginning February 15, 2025, and each February 15 thereafter, the board must submit to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over criminal justice policy a written report that:

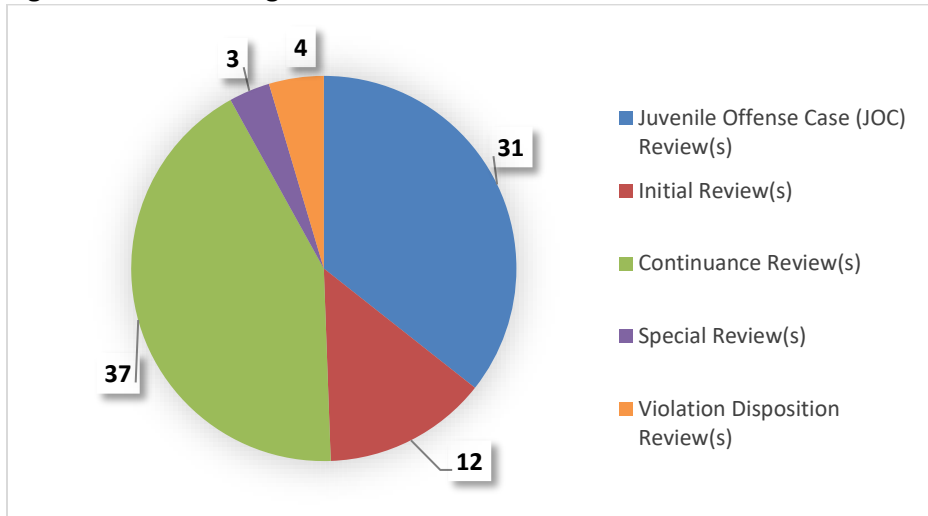
- (1) details the number of inmates reviewed;
- (2) identifies inmates granted release or final discharge in the preceding year;
- (3) specifies the length of time served by individuals granted release or final discharge in the preceding year before that release or discharge;
- (4) identifies any individual granted release or final discharge in the preceding year who will remain in custody as the result of a consecutive sentence;
- (5) identifies the number of prior reviews of inmates who were granted release or final discharge and inmates who were denied release or final discharge;
- (6) specifies the underlying offense of inmates who were granted release or final discharge and inmates who were denied release or final discharge; and
- (7) provides demographic data of inmates who were granted release or final discharge and inmates who were denied release or final discharge, including whether any of the individuals were under 18 years of age at the time of committing the offense.

(b) The report must also include the board's recommendations to the commissioner for policy modifications that influence the board's duties.

### Number of Individuals Reviewed

In 2025, there were 87 review hearings which were heard by the SRB (Table 1). Thirty-one individuals who were convicted as juveniles had a hearing under the new laws regarding eligibility for release. Of those who were convicted as adults, twelve hearings were initial reviews, meaning the individual had not yet reached their parole eligibility date. As explained above, the purpose of these hearings, which occur three years prior to the parole eligibility date, is to check in on the individual to determine how they have progressed during incarceration, and provide guidance on any needed programming, treatment, or activities to prepare for release in the future. An additional thirty-seven hearings stemmed from a prior continuance, three hearings were considered a special review, and four were to determine disposition from violation behavior (Table 1).

**Figure 1. 2025 Hearings**



**Table 1. 2025 Hearings**

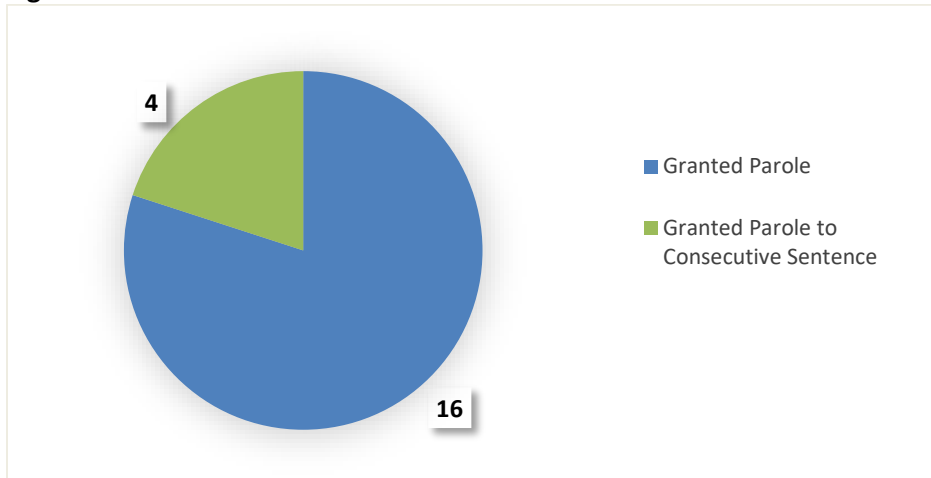
2025 Hearings	January 10	January 28	February 11	February 28	March 14	March 25	April 11	April 29	May 23	May 30	June 24	July 11	July 29	August 29	September 9	September 24	October 14	November 12	December 9	Totals	
Juvenile Offense Case (JOC)	2			3		5		3		5			3	2		4	4				31
Initial		2			1			2				1		2	1	1				2	12
Continuance	2	3	2		2		4		3		5	3	1	1	3	1	1		5	1	37
Special											1							1	1		3
Violation Disposition			3																1		4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>87</b>	

Juvenile Offense Case (JOC) reviews, include initial reviews and continuance reviews. Initial review is for homicide and criminal sexual conduct cases, including pre-1989 case(s) when a life sentence was a 17-year minimum. Continuance reviews were for both pre-1989 cases and post-1989. A special review is held when unique circumstances arise with an individual’s sentence, such as substantial credit for time served on their sentence, or a commutation by the Pardon Board.

**Number of Individuals Granted Release or Final Discharge in the Preceding Year**

Twenty individuals were granted parole following the hearing (Fig. 2). For four of those granted parole, the parole grant simply meant they could begin serving time on a consecutive sentence; therefore, these individuals remain in DOC custody. Thus, a total of 16 individuals were released to the community on parole. All of the individuals granted parole were originally incarcerated for a homicide offense (Appendix A).

**Figure 2. Individuals Granted Parole in 2025**



Once an individual is released on parole, the SRB must continue to maintain contact and monitor their progress. The SRB has the authority to grant final discharge if:

- (1) the person on parole has complied with the conditions of parole for a period of time sufficient to satisfy the board that the parolee is reliable and trustworthy;
- (2) the board is satisfied the person on parole will remain at liberty without violating the law; and
- (3) final discharge is not incompatible with the welfare of society.

Minn. Stat. § 243.05, subd. 3. Currently, the SRB requires that a person be on supervision for a minimum of 10 years and that they have been violation free for at least 7 years before it will consider final discharge. In 2025, there were no final discharges.

#### **Individuals Granted Release or Final Discharge Who Will Remain in Custody for a Consecutive Sentence**

Some individuals have additional sentences that must be served consecutively to the sentence for which the SRB granted parole. When that happens, the individuals must remain in DOC custody until they serve the minimum term on the consecutive sentence. In 2025, 4 individuals were granted parole, but remain in custody to serve the minimum term on a consecutive sentence.

Those individuals are:

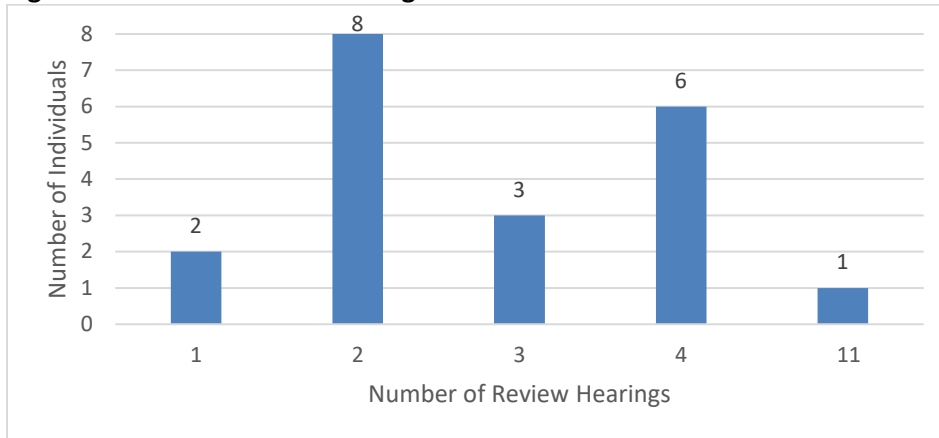
- Adrian Riley – Granted presumptive parole to begin consecutive sentence 5/23/2025
- Leonard Griese – Granted presumptive parole to begin consecutive sentence 5/17/2025
- Kennedy Gisege – Granted presumptive parole to begin consecutive sentence 4/17/2025
- Michael Church – Granted presumptive parole to begin consecutive sentence 4/4/2025

The statute requires DOC to report on the number of individuals granted final discharge that will remain in custody as the result of a consecutive sentence. Individuals are not eligible to be discharged from parole if they have a consecutive sentence to serve, as such no individuals were granted final discharge that would remain in custody.

### Number of Prior Reviews and Time Served for those Granted Release or Final Discharge

The majority of people granted parole were attending their second or fourth review hearing. An additional 2 were attending their first hearing, and 3 were attending their third hearing. One other had experienced eleven reviews (Fig. 3). Individuals granted parole served an average of 30 years, with the number of years served ranging from 19 to 43 years (Appendix A).

**Figure 3. Number Review Hearings for Individuals Granted Parole**

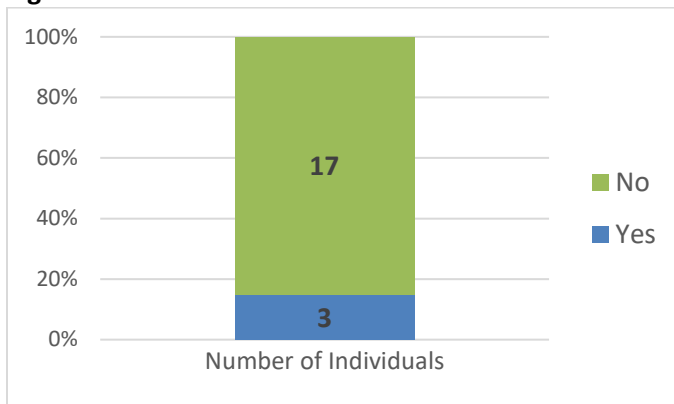


There were no final discharges granted in 2025.

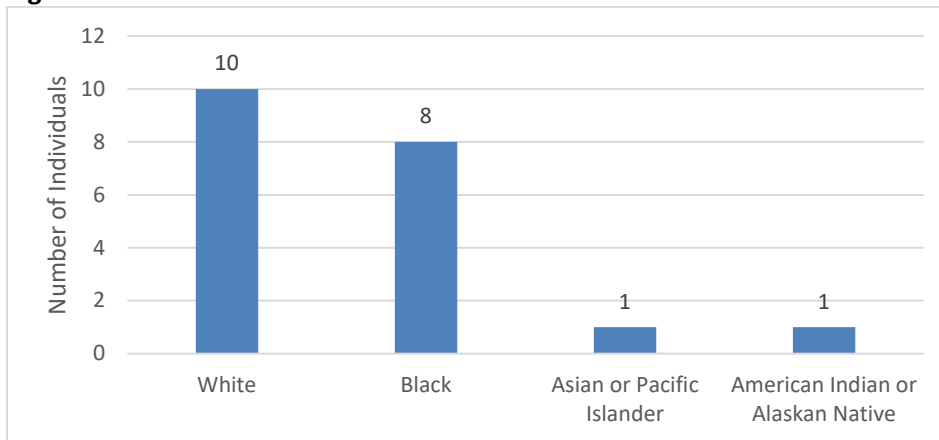
### Demographics of Individuals Granted Parole

Of the 20 individuals who were granted parole in 2025 all but one were male. The average age of individuals granted parole was 56 years of age. Individuals were between 35 and 82 years old. Three of the individuals were under 18 at the time of the offense (Fig. 4). Half of the individuals granted parole were white. Another 8 individuals identified as Black, 1 identified as Asian or Pacific Islander, and 1 identified as American Indian or Alaskan Native (Fig. 5).

**Figure 4. Individuals Under 18 at Time of the Offense**



**Figure 5. Race of Individuals Granted Parole**

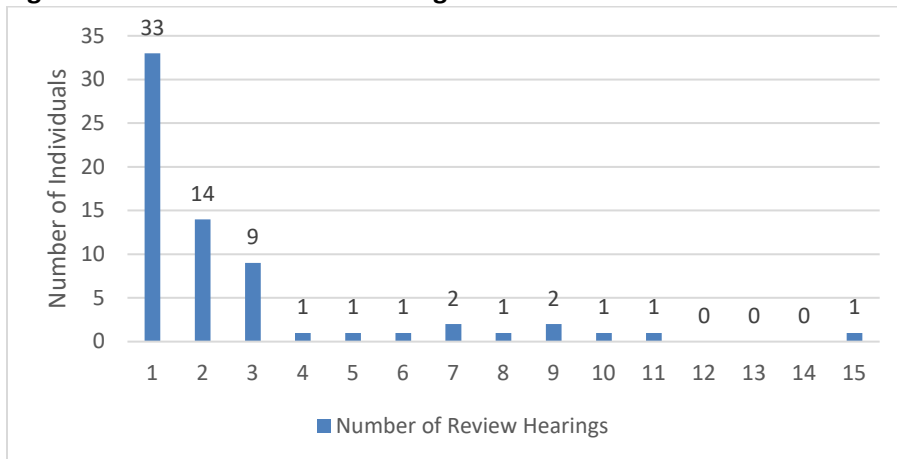


**Individuals Denied Release or Final discharge**

In 2025, no individuals were denied final discharge from parole. This section therefore focuses on information about individuals denied parole release.

In 2025, 37 individuals were denied parole. The majority (33) were appearing for their first review hearing (Fig. 6). Twenty-five individuals were appearing for their second or third hearing, and the remainder were appearing for their fourth through fifteenth hearing (Fig. 6). All but two of the 67 individuals were originally convicted of homicide. The remaining individuals were convicted of a criminal sexual conduct offense (Appendix B).

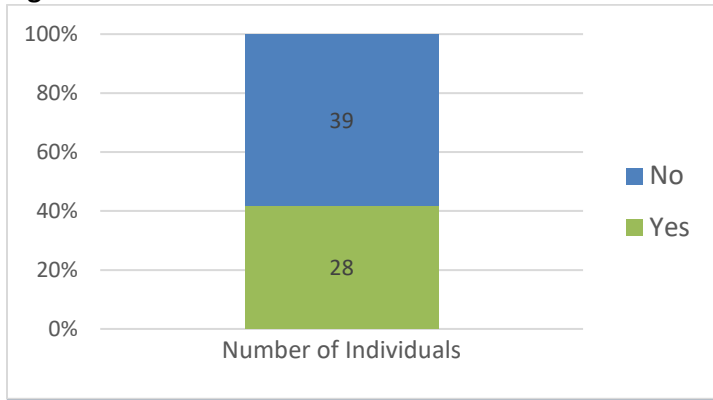
**Figure 6. Number of Review Hearings Prior to Parole Denial**



**Demographics of Individuals Denied Parole**

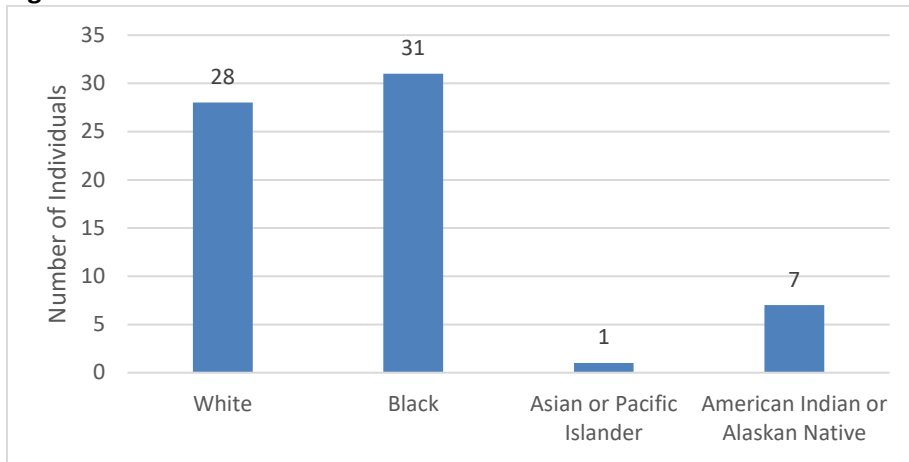
Of the 67 individuals denied parole, all but two were male. The average age was 47, with individuals ranging in age from 28 to 83 (Appendix B). The majority of individuals denied parole were over the age of 18 at the time of the offense (Fig. 7).

**Figure 7. Number of Individuals Denied Parole Who Were Under 18 at the Time of the Offense**



Twenty-eight individuals denied parole were white. Thirty-one identified as Black while one identified as Asian or Pacific Islander and seven identified as American Indian or Alaska Native (Fig. 8).

**Figure 8. Race of Individuals Denied Parole**



### Appendix A. Individuals Granted Parole

OID	Full Name	Underlying Offense	Race	Gender	Age at Review	Under 18 at Time of Offense	Outcome of Hearing	Parole Date	Approx. Years Served	# of Review Hearings
110475	Bowers, Dwight Earl	Homicide	Black	M	69	No	Granted Parole	TBD	36	4
111766	Brown, Isaac Stephen	Homicide	Black	M	66	No	Granted Parole	4/24/2025	43	11
183235	Buntrock, Michael William	Homicide	White	M	49	No	Granted Parole	11/24/2025	30.5	4
165660	Church, Michael Eugene	Homicide	White	M	58	No	Granted Parole to consecutive sentence	4/4/2025	30	2
185682	Dominguez-ramirez, Francisco	Homicide	White	M	47	No	Granted Parole	2/1/2026	29	2
187486	Doppler, David James	Homicide	White	M	48	No	Granted Parole	11/24/2025	30	3
185173	Gisege, Kennedy Ameyna	Homicide	Black	M	58	No	Granted Parole to consecutive sentence	4/17/2025	30	2
186554	Griese, Leonard Ervin paul	Homicide	Black	M	82	No	Granted Parole to consecutive sentence	5/17/2025	30	2
176527	Koskela, Eric William	Homicide	White	M	50	Yes	Granted Parole	7/30/2025	32	4
162391	Lefthand, Michael Shane	Homicide	White	M	63	No	Granted Parole	10/27/2025	30	2
175403	Netland, Darren Lawrence	Homicide	White	M	53	No	Granted Parole	7/9/2025	32	3
171623	Palmer, Marsha Ann	Homicide	White	F	64	No	Granted Parole	12/15/2025	32	4
184800	Perry, Leon Montalita	Homicide	Black	M	52	No	Granted Parole	8/28/2025	30	3
133326	Pippitt, Brian Keith	Homicide	American Indian or Alaskan Native	M	63	No	Granted Parole	1/7/2026	26.5	1
221540	Ratzlaff, Jeremiah Jacob	Homicide	White	M	35	Yes	Granted Parole	10/28/2025	19	2
173945	Riley, Adrian Dominic	Homicide	Black	M	49	No	Granted Parole to consecutive sentence	5/23/2025	30	2
177055	Robinson, William Joseph	Homicide	Black	M	70	No	Granted Parole	4/28/2025	31	4
177289	Smith, Carlos Orlandos	Homicide	Black	M	50	No	Granted Parole	1/21/2026	26.5	1

<b>OID</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Underlying Offense</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age at Review</b>	<b>Under 18 at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Outcome of Hearing</b>	<b>Parole Date</b>	<b>Approx. Years Served</b>	<b># of Review Hearings</b>
178103	Wilson, Paul Arthur	Homicide	White	M	57	No	Granted Parole	8/25/2025	31	4
207037	Yang, Steven	Homicide	Asian or Pacific Islander	M	40	Yes	Granted Parole	6/30/2025	24	2

### Appendix B. Individuals Denied Parole

OID	Full Name	Underlying Offense	Race	Gender	Age at Review	Under 18 at Time of Offense	Number of Review Hearings
222620	Alford, Luis Jimlee	Homicide	White	M	36	Yes	2
169857	Al-shabazz, Shaheed Malik	Homicide	Black	M	53	No	4
241041	Anderson, Julian Kijuan	Homicide	Black	M	28	Yes	1
164102	Ashby, Theodore Sherman	Homicide	Black	M	50	No	2
234444	Baker, Leonard Bernard	Homicide	Black	M	30	Yes	1
126625	Bergeron, Joseph John	Homicide	White	M	69	No	10
111045	Bias, Willie Roger JR	Homicide	White	M	62	No	9
146484	Bollett, Robert Orran	CSC	White	M	60	No	3
102290	Bonga, Dario George	Homicide	American Indian or Alaskan Native	M	62	No	1
221097	Bowie, Danny Aleck Jr	Homicide	Black	M	36	Yes	1
202625	Bradford, Corey Chauncey	Homicide	Black	M	55	No	1
146854	Brom, David Francis	Homicide	White	M	53	Yes	7
129130	Brown, Jacob Stephen	Homicide	Black	M	57	No	9
203814	Brown, Trevor Anthony	Homicide	White	M	45	No	1
183235	Buntrock, Michael William	Homicide	White	M	47	No	3
216716	Coleman, Rashade Deshon	Homicide	Black	M	37	Yes	1
185978	Cooper, Gary Lee	Homicide	Black	M	62	No	2
243219	Copeland, Donquarius Davon	Homicide	White	M	30	Yes	1
224766	Cross, Jerome Pablo	Homicide	White	M	35	Yes	2
203360	Eastman, Justin Wayne	Homicide	American Indian or Alaskan Native	M	41	Yes	2
187459	Engle, David Brian	Homicide	White	M	49	No	2
224929	Fardan, Amani Jamalludin	Homicide	American Indian or Alaskan Native	M	34	Yes	1
229257	Flowers, Brian Lee	Homicide	Black	M	33	Yes	1
233092	Garcia, Giovanni Sergio	Homicide	Black	M	31	Yes	1

OID	Full Name	Underlying Offense	Race	Gender	Age at Review	Under 18 at Time of Offense	Number of Review Hearings
100856	Gassler, Robert D JR	Homicide	White	M	69	No	2
241965	Giner, Enrique Robert IV	Homicide	Black	M	29	Yes	1
202672	Greer, Ronald Lewis	Homicide	Black	M	46	No	1
237067	Griffin, Gary Tyrone Jr	Homicide	Black	M	31	Yes	1
104753	Hannuksela, Dennis John	Homicide	White	M	65	No	6
200445	Harris, Krishnaun Andrew	Homicide	Black	M	42	Yes	2
185446	Henderson, Keith	Homicide	Black	M	52	No	1
186874	Hernandez-mills, Maime	Homicide	White	F	71	No	3
183862	Hooper, Brian Keith	Homicide	Black	M	54	No	1
167164	Ives, Jason Michael	Homicide	American Indian or Alaskan Native	M	49	No	2
238534	Jackson, Malcolm Maghundi	Homicide	Black	M	28	Yes	1
222722	Johnson, Billy ray Deshawn	Homicide	Black	M	36	Yes	2
118310	Johnson, Lawrence William	Homicide	White	M	66	No	11
233834	Jones-adams, Ryan Daniel	Homicide	American Indian or Alaskan Native	M	30	Yes	1
201608	Kinney, Moises Vidal	Homicide	White	M	50	No	1
222805	Martin, Lamonte Rydell	Homicide	Black	M	35	Yes	1
155221	Mckenzie, Amwati Pepi	Homicide	Black	M	50	No	3
218041	Mclaughlin, John Jason	Homicide	White	M	36	Yes	1
183906	Medin, Michael Shane	Homicide	White	M	45	No	1
221599	Metoxen, Jordan Michael	Homicide	American Indian or Alaskan Native	M	36	Yes	1
234286	Myles, Emmanuel Garmodhen	Homicide	Black	M	30	Yes	1
123479	Nissalke, Jack Willis	Homicide	White	M	59	No	3
200862	Pederson, Ryan Michael	Homicide	White	M	44	Yes	2
213920	Pendleton, Robin Todd Jr	Homicide	American Indian or Alaskan Native	M	38	Yes	1
127766	Petrin, Ronald Bruce	CSC	White	M	59	No	3

OID	Full Name	Underlying Offense	Race	Gender	Age at Review	Under 18 at Time of Offense	Number of Review Hearings
150723	Salinas, Andrew Lechuga	Homicide	White	M	61	No	5
172047	Scales, Michael Jerome	Homicide	Black	M	60	No	3
136421	Schneider, Ronald Vernon	Homicide	White	M	83	No	7
171190	Sessions, Carlos Ondre	Homicide	Black	M	54	No	1
240124	Shannon, Stephon Terrell	Homicide	Black	M	30	Yes	1
150000	Sirvio, Bradley Richard	Homicide	White	F	53	No	2
135565	Slowinski, James Tracy	Homicide	White	M	64	No	8
228066	Smith, Joshua Lamar	Homicide	Black	M	33	Yes	1
185677	Spann, Joseph Thomas	Homicide	Black	M	48	No	2
202606	Stiles, Justin Brooks	Homicide	White	M	45	No	1
164297	Swanson, James Shane	Homicide	White	M	58	No	3
198242	Thames, Donnie Tomiji	Homicide	Black	M	49	No	1
201377	Tovar, Alex Chico	Homicide	White	M	47	No	1
178964	Townsend, Otha Eric	Homicide	Black	M	56	No	3
216763	Vang, Fong	Homicide	Asian or Pacific Islander	M	36	Yes	1
182323	Walen, Brett Randall	Homicide	White	M	55	No	2
244329	Warwick, Robert Innocencio	Homicide	Black	M	29	Yes	1
113296	Wilford, James	Homicide	Black	M	70	No	15