

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR EDWARD M. FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF BOSTON TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME & HOMICIDE

WHEREAS, On April 22nd, 1991, during a break-in at her apartment in Roxbury, 87-year old Maude Hinds was beaten and strangled to death by 19-year old Dionico Delvalle. The case remained unsolved for nine years until the Boston Police Department was able to match fingerprints to Delvalle, at which point he blamed his brother for the murder. In 2005, Delvalle had been convicted of first-degree murder and was sentenced to life without parole; *and*

WHEREAS, First-degree murder typically carries a sentencing of life with no parole, but, in January 2024, in the Supreme Judicial Court case *Commonwealth v. Mattis*, the court ruled that emerging adults, between the ages of 19 and 20 at the time of the offense, cannot be sentenced to life without parole. This granted more than 200 inmates in Massachusetts eligibility for parole consideration. The Massachusetts' Parole Board makes these decisions guided by legal standards, established criteria and best practices; *and*

WHEREAS, Delvalle became eligible for parole following the 2024 court ruling, after serving 25 years in prison. Hinds' family was not alerted of this and was not asked to present victim-impact statements, hearing of his release only from an article in the Boston Herald. Delvalle was granted parole, with the parole board claiming he had accepted full responsibility for his actions and had benefitted from programming. He had maintained consistent employment in the metal shop as a welder and had committed himself to occupational skills training; *and*

WHEREAS, It is critical that officials communicate with the families of victims prior to scheduling a parole hearing and public release date. Families of victims have a right to present testimony and pursue justice for their loved ones; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine services provided by the City of Boston to families of victims of violence and homicide, and that the Massachusetts' Parole Board, Boston Police Department, Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: August 5, 2026