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## ‘Wrong and inexcusable’



Family members of trooper George Hanna, James Kearney, Denise Skowronski, Hailey Skowronski and Deborah Hanna-Kearney stand outside before the hearing in Natick. ALLAN JUNG/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

### Trooper George Hanna's killer seeks parole

**Norman Miller**

The MetroWest Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

NATICK — More than four decades after he murdered Massachusetts State Police Trooper George Hanna Jr., José Colon sat before the state Parole Board on Thursday, Jan. 15, for the first time, seeking release from prison.

Colon, now 63, spoke about his reha-

bilitation and his sorrow for the murder of Hanna on Feb. 26, 1983, outside an Auburn liquor store. He said he wants a chance to show he was more than the actions of one night.

“What I did was wrong and inexcusable,” Colon said during the five-hour parole hearing in Natick. “I will have to live with that for the rest of my life. I have asked God for forgiveness. I hope that one day the Hanna family will forgive me for the suffering I’ve brought into their life.”

However, Colon’s bid for parole has met heavy resistance. Several people gathered outside the Parole Board offices on Mercer

Street holding signs calling for Colon to remain in prison, and friends and family of Hanna testified against him being granted parole. Gov. Maura Healey wrote a letter to the Parole Board, urging that Colon be denied release.

“He took away the chance for my father to grow old and he took away our chance to grow up with him,” said Deborah Hanna-Kearney, Hanna’s oldest of three children. “My father doesn’t get parole from death. My family does not get parole from grief. Our family has served a

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### HOPKINTON

## Why woman sued town and the police chief

**Norman Miller**

The MetroWest Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A woman is suing the Town of Hopkinton, Police Chief Joseph Bennett and the owner of a now-closed Hopkinton pizza shop after the shop owner sexually assaulted her three years ago.

The woman, whom the Daily News is not identifying because she is a victim of a sexual assault and was a minor at the time of the offense, is alleging the town and its police department did not do enough to protect her and others by allowing a convicted sex offender to open and operate a pizza parlor that employed teens.

The lawsuit names Bennett, the town, Hillers Pizza (which closed on Sept. 1) and Hillers’ owner Petros Sismanis. The now 19-year-old woman is seeking \$1.05 million — \$1 million of which is for “severe emotional distress, post traumatic stress disorder.”

The woman’s attorney, Christopher Waterman, initially filed the lawsuit in Middlesex County Superior Court in December, but Doug Louison, the attorney representing Bennett and the town, moved the case to U.S. District Court in Boston because of civil rights issues raised in the lawsuit.

The woman was a 16-year-old employee at Hillers when Sismanis sexually assaulted her on Jan. 12, 2023, in the shop’s basement. After the assault, Sismanis attempted to convince both the teen and her mother to not report the assault and blocked them from leaving the parking lot, according to the lawsuit.

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## How commercial property upgrades spurred return to office

**Caroline Bunnell**

The MetroWest Daily News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

FRAMINGHAM — As more companies implement return-to-office policies, many are seeking upgraded spaces with enhanced amenities for their employees, according to a pair of corporate real estate experts.

Natick and Framingham have become a focal point for this trend, with

several office buildings in those communities undergoing extensive renovations in recent years.

Elizabeth Holmes, director of corporate services for Wayland-based R.W. Holmes Commercial Real Estate, said Natick and Framingham have also grown increasingly popular with tenants due to their convenient location and, more importantly, lower leasing rates compared to nearby Wellesley and Weston.

“Framingham is an interesting market, because as you start to border the central/128 towns like Wellesley, Weston and Waltham, you see a lot more high-end, Class A peak rent,” Holmes said. “So Framingham and Natick are the neighboring market where we see a nice middle ground between 128 and 495.”

This middle-ground features rental prices of around \$30 per square foot for Class A rents to \$20 per square foot for

Class B. It has been attracting more property owners to the area, many of whom have invested in upgrading their buildings to attract tenants.

Along with reasonable rent prices, Todd Barclay, head of investments at Calare Properties, a Framingham-based real estate operator and developer, said Natick and Framingham are in a prime location for both commuting and

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