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Moving forward



Candidates from left on stage, Jean Bradley Derenoncourt, Luz Villar and Moises Rodrigues take part in a mayoral debate sponsored by Greater Brockton Young Professionals at Venue 727 on Sept. 9, 2025.

Man who beat inmate to death, has been sentenced

Amelia Stern
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

A man found guilty of beating a fellow inmate to death at the Massachusetts Treatment Center in Bridgewater in 2021 has been sentenced to state prison, the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office said in a statement.

Michael Robinson, 47, formerly of Gloucester, was sentenced Friday, Jan. 8 to serve 10 to 12 years in state prison on charges he beat fellow inmate Scott Wonoski, 43, of Worcester, to death in a bathroom inside the medium security facility, which is located on the same campus as the Old Colony Correctional Center in Bridgewater.

On Dec. 17, 2025, after a six-day trial in Plymouth Superior Court, a jury deliberated 11 hours before finding Robinson guilty of one count each of involuntary manslaughter and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, the statement said. In the latter charge, footwear, such as a shoe when used to kick, can be a dangerous weapon, according to state law.

The incident occurred on the evening of April 13, 2021, when corrections officers discovered Wonoski in a facility bathroom unresponsive and bleeding. He was transported to a hospital in Brockton where he was pronounced dead from blunt force injuries to his head and torso, according to the DA's office.

His death was ruled a homicide, and video surveillance from the facility showed Robinson assaulting the victim and then exiting the bathroom.

Wonoski had been at the Massachusetts Treatment Center since 2019 after he was convicted of attempted murder, the Department of Correction said. He was also a registered Level 3 sex offender in Massachusetts, having been convicted in May 2004 of aggravated rape, according to the state's Sex Offender Registry Board.

The facility houses criminally sentenced male inmates identified as sex offenders and those who have been civilly committed as sexually dangerous persons, according to the Massachusetts Department of Correction.

It wasn't immediately clear why or how long Robinson was incarcerated at the facility.

Reporter Amelia Stern can be reached by email at astern@enterprise-news.com. Follow her on X at [@ameliasstern](https://twitter.com/ameliasstern).

Derenoncourt drops bid to overturn Brockton mayoral election

Chris Helms
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

BROCKTON — In a surprise development, Brockton mayoral candidate Jean Bradley Derenoncourt dropped his lawsuit seeking a new election on the basis of alleged fraud.

Attorneys for Derenoncourt announced the decision in Brockton Superior Court on Jan. 14. Mary LaCivita, a lawyer for the former city councilor, read a statement from the candidate.

"While I firmly believe that the will of the voters was compromised by the unethical and illegal behavior that transpired in this election, I have decided, after careful deliberation and consultation, that further legal action may exacerbate our already fractured city, and instead choose to move forward in a positive manner, prioritizing the well-being of our city above all else," the statement read.

An attorney for Brockton Mayor Moises M. Rodrigues welcomed the news.

"I'm rather surprised but it's in keeping with what the inevitable result would be," said Mark Lawton. "I know

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Attorneys for Brockton mayoral candidate Jean Bradley Derenoncourt announced in Brockton Superior Court on Jan. 14, Derenoncourt is dropping his lawsuit seeking a new election. Attorney Scott Vecchi, center, addresses the court on behalf of Derenoncourt, who was not present. To the left is one of Brockton Mayor Moises Rodrigues' attorneys, Mark Lawton. To the right is Mary LaCivita, one of Derenoncourt's lawyers. PHOTOS BY MARC VASCONCELLOS/THE ENTERPRISE

Read the full statement by mayoral candidate Derenoncourt

Chris Helms
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

BROCKTON — Why did Jean Bradley Derenoncourt drop his bid to change the result of Brockton's mayoral election?

The surprising decision, announced by his lawyers Jan. 14 at a procedural hearing in the case, ends Derenoncourt's attempt to convince a judge that fraud by the campaign of Mayor Moises M. Rodrigues and errors by city election officials rose to the level that would call

for a fresh election.

Derenoncourt surprised some political observers by placing a close second in the September 2025 preliminary election. He also came close in the Nov. 4 general election. The final official tally made Rodrigues mayor by a margin of 259 votes out of more than 13,500 cast.

Here, in full, is Derenoncourt's statement. His lawyers read it in court.

After careful consideration and with the utmost regard for the City of Brockton's well-being, I have decided to withdraw my legal challenge to the

2025 Mayoral election process.

This decision was made in light of the substantial financial burdens currently facing the city and the protracted timeline associated with this legal process.

I campaigned on resolving our city's issues, not exacerbating them, which a lengthy and contentious legal battle could potentially do, as considerable legal fees may be incurred by the city in defending the significantly flawed and ethically questionable behavior that occurred.

While I firmly believe that the will of

the voters was compromised by the unethical and illegal behavior that transpired in this election, I have decided, after careful deliberation and consultation, that further legal action may exacerbate our already fractured city, and instead choose to move forward in a positive manner, prioritizing the well-being of our city above all else.

I will continue to work tirelessly toward a better Brockton.

Send your news tips to reporter Chris Helms by email at CHelms@enterprise-news.com or connect on X at [@HelmsNews](https://twitter.com/HelmsNews).

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