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The Enterprise

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From left, Melissa Welch, of Plymouth and sister, Megan Welch, of Middleboro, at an event at Marina Bay in Quincy on April 4.

Brockton murderer granted parole after 15 years

Amelia Stern
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

A man who spent more than 15 years in a Massachusetts prison after being convicted of first-degree murder in a 2004 Brockton shooting has been granted parole, according to a March 24 state Parole Board decision.

The six-person Parole Board unanimously voted March 24 to release Lewis Franklin, 39, to a Department of Mental Health Group Living Environment, the decision said.



Franklin was convicted in 2009 of first-degree murder in the shooting death of John Falcone, 30, of Hanson. Franklin allegedly fired four shots at Falcone, fatally striking him in the back during a drug deal gone wrong on Aug. 23, 2004, prosecutors said.

Franklin was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

But a 2024 Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruling made life-sentencing without the possibility of parole for defendants 18 to 20 years of age unconstitutional, according to the SJC's Mattis decision.

Franklin, who was 18 when he fatally shot Falcone, was re-sentenced to life with the possibility of parole after 15 years. He appeared before the Parole Board in December 2025.

Why was Lewis Franklin granted parole?

The Parole Board explained in its March 24 decision that Franklin had participated in mental health programming during his incarceration and that he has a low risk level for future violence and has a strong support system available to assist with his transition.

"With structure and appropriate supports in place, the Board concludes that Mr. Franklin's release is compatible with the welfare of society," the Board wrote.

Why DA's office opposed parole

Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz opposed Franklin's release in a letter sent to the Parole Board, where he expressed concerns that

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Canine canolis?

The Spotted Hound Barkery has got you covered

Sam Pausman
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

Small businesses like this are often founded when two things converge: one, there's a problem, and two, someone aware of the problem wants to be the solution. Well, in this case, the problem was pup-centric: Melissa Jones' dog had a lot of allergies. Like so many allergies.

So, Jones created a solution, and thus, Spotted Hound Barkery (notice that R) was born. "I figured I probably wasn't alone in that a lot of people were looking for a meat-free treat, and so I just decided to do it on my own," she said.

Spotted Hound Barkery is a pop-up bakery — err, barkery — for pups. It was founded in 2023 by Jones, but since then, her sister Megan Welch has joined in on the venture.

All the ingredients they use are human-grade, and they supply every item from the same grocery stores the rest of us humans get our own food from. The

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From left, Melissa Welch and Megan Welch at an event at Marina Bay.

PHOTOS BY MARC VASCONCELLOS/THE ENTERPRISE

Brockton High athletic director warns about staffing

Jacob Posner
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

BROCKTON — Brockton High School Athletic Director Kevin Karo raised concerns about nine part-time roles in athletics being eliminated, and their jobs taken over by two full-time employees, including him.

Going forward, he said the district will hire one, full-time assistant athletic director, and his role will expand to cover grades 6-8, in addition to the high school. He added that the structure is still being finalized.

A district spokesperson emphasized that the eliminated roles are not full-time, but stipend positions, which staff members typically hold in addition to

their regular jobs.

"We fully expect that the creation of a new Assistant Athletic Director role will build capacity in Athletics rather than reduce it, and we anticipate this new structure will ensure the responsibilities associated with running the department are more evenly distributed," Director of Communications Jordan Mayblum wrote in an email Friday, April 3.

'It's just something that is weighing on me'

Karo made his concerns public during a school committee meeting on March 17.

"It's just something that is weighing on me," he said. "Moving forward, I just don't know what this is going to look like."

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