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February 23, 2024

Attorney Lisa Hoying, Parole Board Chair
Ohio Adult Authority
4545 Fisher Road, Suite D
Columbus, OH 43228

IN RE: CHRISTOPHER FERRELL, #272486
Trumbull County Case #92-CR-525
CONVICTION: Aggravated Murder w/ Gun
Specification; Aggravated Burglary;
Aggravated Burglary; and Attempted
Aggravated Burglary
SENTENCE: Life Sentence w/consecutive
gun specification along with multiple
concurrent 10 to 25 and 8 to 15 year
sentence
TIME SERVED: 31 Years

Dear Attorney Hoying:

On August 6, 2013, I wrote the parole board joining former Assistant County Prosecutor LuWayne Annos (who along with former Assistant Prosecutor and former Trumbull County Common Pleas Judge Peter J. Kontos prosecuted inmate Christopher Ferrell back in 1992 and 1993) in strongly opposing Ferrell's release on parole in 2013. I am including with this letter our prior letters and materials I previously sent the board along with some additional records. Thankfully, the

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parole board at that time, after reviewing everything, decided not to release Ferrell on parole and extended his next parole board hearing the maximum provided by law to ten years.

Clearly this individual, who had a juvenile criminal history, led a gang of hooligans on a violent crime wave in attacking homeowners in 1991 and 1992, which included Western Pennsylvania and Trumbull, Portage and Geauga Counties in Ohio. As we previously stated, Mr. Ferrell was known to tote a sawed-off shotgun and handgun in his offenses. In one of his crimes prior to executing Mr. Lash with a pistol in Newton Township, he had duct taped and terrorized an elderly deaf woman with a shotgun. Succinctly, Prosecutor Annos put it this way: "Though only age 17 at the time of the murder, he is a ruthless cold-blooded killer who snuffed out the life of Douglas Lash, who was only 19-years old at the time." I said it another way in my prior letter to the board. "If he would have been eighteen, he would have faced the death penalty. In short, Ferrell is a sociopath who needs to be locked up for the rest of his natural life. The best proof to justify this recommendation is actual behavior. With him there is a disgusting overload of it."

Further, as the Board knows, Ferrell is also still serving at the present time, separate penitentiary time for violent crimes committed in Geauga County in 1993. See Aggravated Burglary, Aggavated Robbery, and Kidnapping convictions and sentences of 10 to 25 years before Judge Inderlied.

It is our hope that along with the victim's family members, who recently told Mary Jo Hosos, Administrator of our Victim/Witness program, that they are strongly against their son's murderer being released, that the parole board will in its independent judgment and wisdom, again deny Christopher Ferrell any release on parole at this time. We firmly believe his punishment has yet to counterbalance the seriousness of his many violent offenses against innocent people, including Douglas Lash, who suffered a close range shot to the head while he was kneeling down. More importantly, his societal risk to commit additional episodes of crimes of violence is too great to change his confinement arrangement.

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One final thought: Three times in 2019, inmate Ferrell was found guilty of five (5) Rules Infraction violations for among other things, failure to comply to correction officer's instructions which included the following colloquy:

“...I continued to give inmate Ferrell instructions to get up out of bed and I noticed that the inmate kept placing his right hand under his right side as if he was attempting to retrieve something. I gave the inmate multiple orders to show me his hands and the inmate failed to comply and continued to conceal his right hand. I attempted to guide the inmate out of bed and the inmate began to physically resist by pulling away. I guided the inmate out of bed and to the ground and placed the inmate in a joint manipulation to gain compliance. See Supplement Report.

Obviously, Ferrell still has behavioral issues after nearly thirty years in prison. See updated Current Institutional Report Summary of inmate Christopher Ferrell dated February 7, 2024. Also, I would note that we do have the Supplement Report mentioned above. Though Ferrell's Current Risk Score is "Prison Reentry RT (Low) 6, we continue to maintain that his outside-of-prison risk to re-offend to the public is high.

Thank you for your kind consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



DENNIS WATKINS
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

Enclosures

DW:fah