



OFFICE OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY  
JOHN MARSHALL COURTS BUILDING  
400 NORTH 9th STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219-1998

COLETTE WALLACE MCEACHIN  
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

(804) 646-3500  
FAX (804) 646-0506

Ms. Tonya Chapman, Chair  
Virginia Parole Board  
6900 Atmore Drive  
Richmond, VA 23225

April 28, 2020

RE: Vincent Lamont Martin

Dear Ms. Chapman,

On or about April 15, 2020, my office received the statutory notice that Vincent Martin had been granted discretionary parole on or about April 10, 2020. Pursuant to the Virginia Parole Board Administrative Procedure Manual, Number 1.227, ("Manual") I respectfully request that the Board reconsider its decision to grant discretionary parole to Mr. Vincent Martin. It is my understanding that the victim's family wishes to present information which may have been unknown to the Board at the time of review, and that the Board's decision was therefore based upon incomplete information. Also, given the number and seriousness of Mr. Martin's convictions, I am concerned about his suitability for parole and the safety of the general public should he return to Richmond.

This matter has also illuminated the process the Parole Board uses to notify victims and other interested parties of its decisions, including methods of communication and timeliness of notification. For instance, when the victim's aged parents received a letter from the Board on March 4, 2020, that was the first time that they had been contacted by the Board in 40 years. While the Board appears to have a Victim Input Program, per Number 1.225 in the Manual, I don't know whether that Program existed when Mr. Martin was sentenced in 1980, or if the Board has made an effort to contact victims whose cases are decades-old and who may never have been informed by the Board about the various means by which they can receive timely information about the Board's pending decisions to grant or deny parole.

There may be other procedural issues that are more appropriately reviewed and addressed by the Governor or the General Assembly, such as the fact that Virginia Code §53.1-136 (2)(c) requires that the Board notify the Commonwealth's Attorney "at least 21 business days prior to release on discretionary parole of any inmate convicted of a felony and sentenced to a term of 10 or more years." Obviously, notifying my office after the Board has made its decision to release an individual on discretionary parole does not allow the

Commonwealth's Attorney time "to offer information relative to the parole" of an inmate while that information could inform the Board's decision about whether to release the individual. (Virginia Parole Board Policy Manual, II, F).

For all the above reasons, I ask that the Board reconsider its decision to grant discretionary parole to Mr. Martin and, after due process for both the victim's family and Mr. Martin, rescind its decision to release Mr. Martin from custody.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colette Wallace McEachin". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Colette Wallace McEachin