

RECEIVED
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Hello

My name is Bryan Ferguson [REDACTED] I am currently housed at High Desert State Prison. I am writing this letter because the topic of prison reform is being discussed as of lately. You may be interested in my situation/sentence structure. Please let me explain.

Before I was arrested in September of 2006 I had been to prison only one time. That was in 1998. For that incarceration I was convicted of three felonies. Two counts of under the influence of a controlled substance and a car accident.

In 2006 I was charged with, then convicted of two counts of burglary. I was sentenced to two consecutive sentences of three to ten years, making it six to twenty years.

While I was in jail pending this outcome in November of 2006 I was indicted for possession of stolen property. I was charged with and convicted of twenty five counts of possession of stolen property. I was sentenced to twenty five ten to life sentences. A ten to life sentence for every count. The counts of possession of stolen property under two thousand five hundred dollars run concurrent to each other. And the counts of possession of stolen property over two thousand five hundred dollars also run concurrent to each other,

but the over and under two thousand five hundred run consecutive to each other and consecutive to the two three to tens.

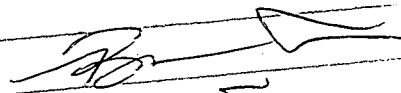
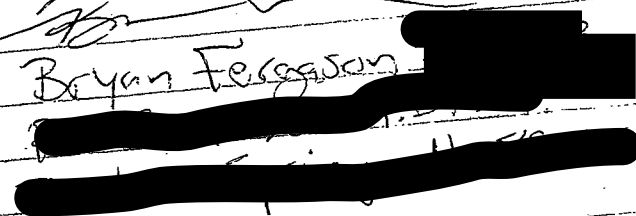
So in short I have a minimum of twenty six years and max of double life for a non-violent property crime the second time I am sent to prison.

As of this date I am still trying to get relief through the court system.

If you would like more information on this and or have any questions you or any of your associates would like to ask me, I would be more than happy and willing to provide you with whatever you need.

I look forward to a response.

Thank You for your time.


Bryan Ferguson


To whom it may concern:

my name is Byron James Fore [REDACTED] I am currently incarcerated at Lovelock Correctional Facility.

I am a 45 year old male who came to prison at the age of 18. But we are here to talk about is the sentencing structure that were given handed out in the early 90's. If anybody had the use of a deadly weapon on their charge, they received double the time. I ended up receiving two 15's and four 5 to life's, on 3 counts as such I seen no light at the end of the tunnel and I acted out in the worse ways. The truth of the matter is if I had gotten sentence by today's standards and laws, I would of been out of prison by now, where do you see in today's society where somebody is charged with 3 counts on one crime and receive 6 sentences for it, you won't. That's why they changed the laws.

It was a huge step in the right direction. The only problem was anybody sentenced before 95 was forgot about, because it wasn't retroactive for people like me who were sentenced in 95 or before with a deadly weapon enhancement.

I want to thank you for taking the time in listening to what I had to say and I hope you can take my story and move to make some kind of sentence modification for all those left behind like me

Sincerely

Byron James Fore

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2/17/21

BENNET G. GRUBBS

THANK YOU, MRS. VICTORIA GONZALES

FEBRUARY 19, 2021.

THIS IS A CALL FOR EVERYONE PRESENT TO RATIFY OUR INITIAL CONCERN WHICH IS OF DISCORD AND DISCREPANCY WITH THE CHANGES IN PASSED LAWS, THAT ARE EXCLUDING INDIVIDUALS.

THE DISPARITY IN THE EFFECT OF NOT IMPLEMENTING RETROACTIVITY ACROSS A COMPLETE SPECTRUM, RATHER THAN CLASSIFIED AS A CATEGORY, OR A SCALE OF NON-VIOLENT AND VIOLENT OFFENDERS THAT ARE ABLE TO RECEIVE THE CHANGE.

THE INCREASE OF PRIORS TO QUALIFY HABITUAL CRIMINALS UNDERMINED THE CONSTITUTION AND CERTAINLY WAS NOT OF DUE PROCESS AND EQUAL PROTECTION, PROPORTIONALITY, FUNDAMENTAL FAIRNESS, AND BASIC AMERICAN PRINCIPLES, BY NOT AMENDING THE INCREASE TO BE RETROACTIVE. AS WELL AS INVOLVING A PROTECTED INTEREST AND LIBERTY INTEREST.

NEIGHBORING STATES ABIDE BY THIS SPECIFIC PROTOCOL AND POLICY WHEN ENACTMENT OCCURS, RETROACTIVITY APPLIES.

NEVADA, IF NOT THE ONLY STATE, PROCLAIMS TO PARTAKE IN DECREASING RECIDIVISM, BUT ULTIMATELY IGNORES CONGRUITY IN ITS CHANGES;

IE., PERCENTAGES DEDUCTED FROM MINIMUM TERMS AND CAMP ELIGIBILITY EXCLUDES VIOLENT CRIMES.

IN THIS CASE, OVERALL THE PAROLE BOARD SHOULD BE ABOLISHED, ERADICATED, AND AT LEAST REFORMED, BECAUSE IT IS PARTICULARLY AMBIGUOUS TO HAVE A MANDATORY PAROLE DATE AND BE ARBITRARILY FORCED TO EXPIRE, BECAUSE OF ONE OR ANOTHER OF FACTORS, BASED ON A PERSONS SOCIAL CLASS, WHATEVER IT MAY BE PERSE, IE., AN ADDRESS OR THE DURATION SINCE THE COMMITTED CRIME, THAT DENIES OR DETERMINES A PERSONS RELEASE, ESPECIALLY UPON THEM SUCCESSFULLY, PAYING THEIR DEBT TO SOCIETY.

WE MUST ACT NOW, TOGETHER TO ERADICATE THE FUSION OF THESE MATTERS, TO COMPORT WITH THE MODERN PRINCIPLES.

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2/17/21

GREETINGS,

I was recently made aware of your public-prison commentary coming up at the Feb. 19 Meeting. I do have a handful of points to raise. In addition I'd like some general and specific information about what you all do and your current mission-statement and position on the movement for social justice burgeoning throughout our Nation.

Thank you.

Here are some of the following points that should be addressed on the 19th:

1) Until congress passes a retroactive law, sentencing enhancements equal in length to the primary offense should be halted on ethical grounds or executive order. Further, there should be a table of statistics listing the; a) length of the primary offense, b) length of enhancement, c) sentencing judge, d) case number, and e) race and gender of the offender compiled to keep track of disparities. Any basic skill level I.T. guy who understands Database creation can build a database upon these criterion. Judges could consider ~~keeping~~ capping enhancements at 50% of the sentence max until a law is passed.

2) NRS 213.12135, should automatically be applied to Defendants who caught their cases as Juveniles systemwide electronically. Or a packet should be circulated to those who think they qualify, similar to the pardon packet. Instead these young men, some barely literate, must file extensive briefing to get their parole eligibility dates changed. And each judge rules differently on the same motion and set of facts. I'm referring to the new law that states that those who've committed a single homicide while juveniles are eligible for parole in 20 years. Many are still stuck with 40-Life and Life-without due to conflicting District court rulings and no guidance from the Appellate courts.

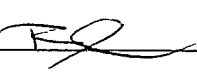
3) In my case I was serving 5 consecutive 6-15 year sentences for the same offense, which is a clear Double Jeopardy violation. Now I'm down to serving 3 6-15s for the same offense. However when I filed my motion to correct an illegal sentence, the same judge that sentenced me reviewed it and tossed it out on erroneous procedural grounds to avoid addressing its Merits. I should've been to board 2 1/2 years ago. I should be expired by now. Instead I'm forced to fight all the way through to Federal Court for the relief I'm clearly entitled to?

As a result I propose an "Illegal sentencing panel" with quasi-judicial powers. This panel would have the power to review all illegal or excessive sentencing claims and either correct them, or refer them to a judge who will. A packet could be developed to help screen frivolous claims from reaching the panel. It probably should not be composed of Judges because in my experience they tend to back up their colleagues. They've been more focused on the 'public confidence' and 'finality of judgment' than JUSTICE.

4) Finally I propose two radical innovations that'll put Nevada at the cutting edge of prison reform:

First - Prisoners with life sentences or parole eligibility dates in excess of 20 years should be allowed to work for some sort of Peace corp./Americorp. agency w/ cutting edge GPS tracking bracelets, to help ~~fix~~ natural disaster or human crisis relief situations in exchange for sentence commutations. This would bring them face to face with their own humanity and that of others where they can put their lives on the line to save lives. Think about it.

Second - Society itself should be able to grant the release of an individual they seem valuable and non-threatening back into their embrace via petitions or ballot questions ("yes" or "no"). Criterion and a signature threshold would be set and Society will decide.

Alright, looking forward to hearing back from you.  PEACE

RECEIVED
2/03/21

Hello,

I would like this letter to be submitted as a public comment. My name is Valentina Knight. I am currently incarcerated. In 2015 myself and my then boyfriend checked into a room at the Bellagio Hotel that he said a friend booked for us for half price. When we checked in my boyfriend presented the front desk with a credit card that he opened in an Alias. The clerk said the prepaid reservation was fraudulent and that we need to go with security. We were charged with fraud. My boyfriend said that everything would be ok, not to speak to police only speak to our shared lawyer. Well we were given a 4-10 year suspended sentence for that crime in 2016. In 2017 I was revoked for violation of probation and was scared to be ^{Away} way from my 12-year-old son for up to 10 years for such a crime. In 2019 the law caught up with me; I was then 2 weeks pregnant. I had my new son in prison and can possibly stand to be away from him for up to 10 years for fraudulent cards my codefendant had in his name and a room booked that cost \$557.00. Since then I have learned I wasn't even supposed to qualify for the "Burglary" I was charged with because of the amount of the money involved in the crime, coupled with the fact that one can only be charged with a burglary ^{of} if a business if the crime was committed on the property outside of business hours and or if one were charged with two or more petit larceny charges the preceding seven years or less prior to the crime. Neither were the case for me. That is why I am asking for retroactivity for non-violent criminals like myself. The punishment did not fit the crime and my children are suffering because of it. When I became of felon status because of this my life went downhill. Please consider our pleas for people in similar predicaments like myself and children. Please make assembly bill 236 retroactive.

Thank you in advance!

Valentina Knight

██████████
████████████████████
██

2-2-2021

Harold Leventry #01101
WSSC

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

I would please like letter made /
Submitted as public comment at the
next Commission meeting on Feb 19, 2021.

Re: ACAJ / Sentencing Commission

Dear Victoria Gonzalez,

RECEIVED
02/03/21

As a non-violent inmate housed in NDOC for a period of 10 years to life, I am compelled to tell you how I got here.

At the time of my arrest I was raising (2) small children and running a successful small business in Reno, NV, taxpaying productive citizen that simply relapsed, once more, from using a nasty, illicit controlled substance. The sentence enforced by the court (a mandatory minimum), devastated my family, our children and my business. My behavior and the consequences rest squarely on my shoulders. I just wish a drug treatment option was offered / available to me. I also understand that the court was required to sentence me as such under those sentencing guidelines.

As a young man, I spent 10 years inside of NDOC. Towards the end of this prison sentence, I was offered a court ran drug-treatment program called the "184-Program." The records will reflect that I did extremely well, thriving in the structured environment. Part of the program was even revamped after some of my successes. Unfortunately, with drug addictions, relapses are a concern and happen more often than not.

With the passing of AB-236, the law now states that the same low-level amount of a controlled substance I was in possession of, now only carries a 1-10 year prison sentence. Certainly the life sentence that I received is excessive and, quite frankly, inappropriate and the legislative bodies agree as the progressive changes reflect this.

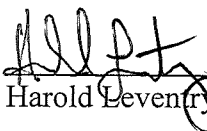
With criminal justice reform on everyone's mind, what better way to address prison overcrowding, the costs of storing these men and women with non-violent drug offenses, then to apply AB-236 retroactive. This legislation will have some meat to it and Nevada can show leadership towards real criminal justice reform. The savings could be better spent on treatment and rehabilitation for those of us with these addictions. The inmates left behind with the passing of AB-236 in its current version just disregards those incarcerated under these outdated laws. We are real people with families and real lives. Who better to represent this progressive change than those of us given a new lease on life?

Without the members of your committee addressing the retroactivity of AB-236, then there will be many of us incarcerated, "doing time" for crimes where treatment is a much better answer to the question. As it stands right now, I will have to do 10 calendar years before I can even appear in front of a Parole Board for a low-level amount of a controlled substance.

We want you to know that AB-236 is a step in the right direction, but it falls short, not addressing those of us incarcerated.

Please reconsider amending AB-236 to reflect this charge so that this new legislation affects all the people. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,


Harold Leventry [Redacted]

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2/17/21

RAHIM MUHAMMAD



Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy
Victoria Gonzalez
625 Fairview Drive, Suite 121
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5430

RE: Public Comment February 19, 2021

Dear Victoria, 02-11-21

I appreciate you taking the time to respond to my audios, it is so much easier & time efficient for me to communicate & convey my thoughts & opinions. Don't you just love technology!

Well, one of my main objectives of expressing myself is to help change our system for the better, particularly for African American males whom seem to be ~~dis~~proportionately impacted in a negative way by the Criminal Justice system. However, I want to see all human beings ~~equally~~ benefitting equally by our system.

We need more alternatives & options to Incarceration, especially with the recidivism rate being extremely high.

We are charging the taxpayers approximately \$30,000 thousand dollars a year, more or less, per inmate when you could give me that same money & I would leave the Country permanently.

Yes, with \$30,000 dollars, I could move to Venezuela & start over. Me personally, I'm willing to renounce my U.S citizenship & move to Venezuela

where my daughter was born (Angelique Mychelle Muhammad Alvarez) in 2015.

I lived there for around 14 months & willing to return to start a new life instead of living in an environment that is antisocial & counterproductive.

This environment is emotionally, mentally, & socially unhealthy for most persons (but I think for Black people it is an extra layer of issues that is related to the psychological affects of slavery that has plagued the Black Culture.

This is also a violatible environment ~~to~~ were violence is too often a common language, a language only understood in conflict resolution. This environment reinforces behavior & traits that we want to get rid of.

This environment perpetuates racism; the horrible & ugly face of racism has infected this environment like the Coronavirus.

It's no wonder why many inmates come out worse than when they went in & some don't make it out. EEs Horribly.

I personally believe racism, discrimination & money has corrupted & prison the possibilities of reducing the recidivism rate & reforming our Criminal Justice system.

Plus you have judges like Kathleen Morolla Drakulich who want to be reelected, so why is the hell would she ~~be~~ give me a chance at a program or follow the P.N.P recommendation? Maximum Sentence equals Maximum profits.

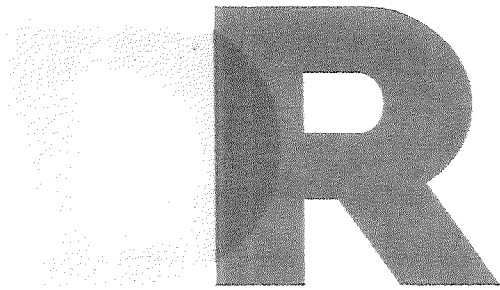
We'll take care of ONE Love.

P.S. You have full permission to submit (audios too) for public comment

FREE RASHIM MUHAMMAD

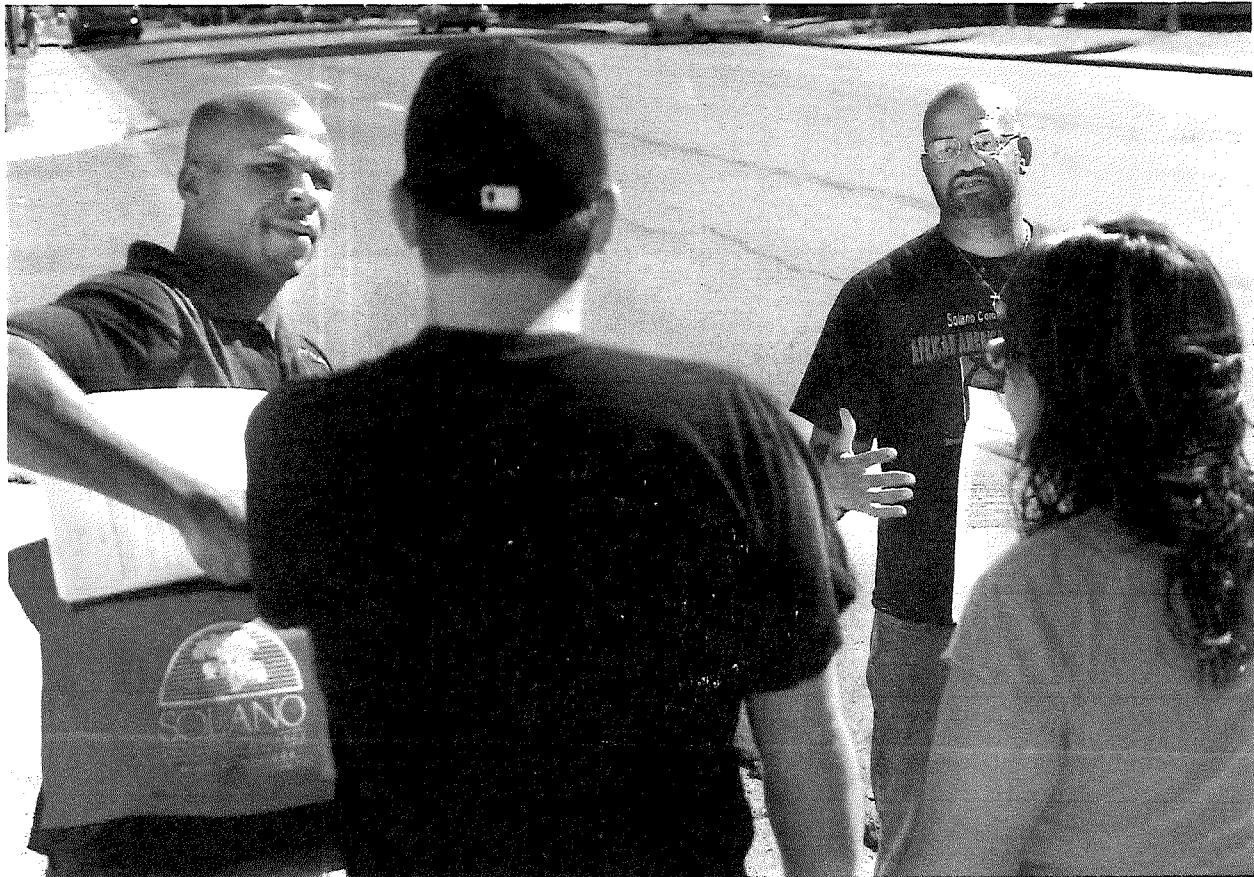
The RASHIM TEAM: teamwork makes the Dream Work!

@TRASHIMTEAM



DAILY REPUBLIC

Solano County's News Source



Scholars group stresses brotherhood, education

By Heather Ah San

FAIRFIELD — Members of the Solano Community College African-American Male Scholars Club asked themselves why young men, specifically young black men, would join a gang.

“Because of false support,” said club member Ron Glover.

Young, confused and impressionable men want a support system, Glover said. A gang gives them that support, but it’s not genuine or positive – it’s manipulative.

The African-American Male Scholars Club formed at the college last semester to give black men an alternative to gangs and other negative support systems.

When the club was founded, the main objective was to develop black male scholars. But in the past few months, the club has grown into a brotherhood, one where members say they support one another and the community while encouraging college education.

“Last year we didn’t know each other,” said President Troy Finley. “This year, we all became brothers.”

The group targets black men, though it is open to all races and genders. The reason for this, members said, is because of need.

Rahim Muhammad, the club’s vice president, said one only needs to look at statistics to see that young black men have the highest rate of violence and homicides in the United States.

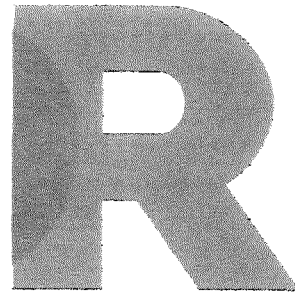
“How do we stop this?” Muhammad said. “How do we become part of this solution?”

A small group of Solano College students, including Muhammad and Finley, came together to address that issue. Glover said people want a support system, and their club strives to give it to them.

The members give one another academic and personal support, which includes helping out with everyday things.

One of their brothers is undergoing cancer treatment, Muhammad said. To help him out, they drive him to and from school, and help with chores and shopping, among other things.

“If a brother calls and needs help, one or two of us will always be there,” Muhammad said.



DAILY REPUBLIC
Solano County's News Source



Highway 128 at Wraggs Canyon reopens; fire 87% contained



Troy Finley, right, and Rahim Muhammad, left, of the African American Male Scholars, walk around the area of East Travis Boulevard and Kidder Avenue passing out voter registration forms and encouraging people to vote. (Robinson Kuntz/Daily Republic)

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1/27/21

Victoria Gonzalez

Executive Director

Department of Sentencing Policy

Mrs. Gonzalez, I would like to thank you for your recent letter regarding your upcoming meeting with the Sentencing Commission on February 19, 2021.

I have enclosed a letter I would like you to submit as public comment during the meeting.

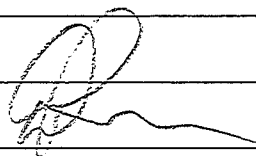
I understand that the Commission can not take any action on my behalf and that is not my intention. I am simply trying to share a little of my story and opinions in hopes that the Commission may consider them when making recommendations about Sentencing in the future.

It is my intention to have them understand that decisions they make and laws they affect can have unexpected consequences as with my case. If my words can somehow help those who make the decisions to better understand Prisons and the effect they have on inmates and families then I will have at least done something good with my time here.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. It is truly appreciated.

Respectfully,

David Pepper



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
1/27/21

To whom it may concern;

I would like to share some of my story and experience with you in the Nevada Department of Corrections to give you some perspective about life inside prison and the effect that life sentences in particular has on inmates.

I will try to keep this as succinct as possible and to the point, but hope you will forgive me if I stray off topic a bit. I am in no way a professional writer.

I am currently serving a sentence of Life Without Parole concurrent to a life with Parole for a crime committed in 1993.

As you may know, prior to 1993 there were only three options for sentencing in a case of murder. Life with parole (10 yrs to life), Life without Parole, and Death. Life without Parole was sometimes given as a means to make an inmate serve more than 10 years. It was used as a 20 years to life as after about 20 years they could apply to the Pardons Board, have their sentence commuted to Life with Parole, and be released.

This is not my opinion it's backed up by the number of inmates sentenced to Life without prior to 1995 who have been subsequently Pardoned and Released. I do not know the exact number but it is a fair amount and I know several personally.

After 1995 the sentence structure for murder has changed dramatically giving judges much more discretion over sentencing. 20 yrs to life, 20 yrs to 50 yrs, 30 yrs, etc... Also the Law changed making Life without no longer able

to apply to the Pardons Board. LWO meant you would die in prison.

After 1995 I noticed far fewer inmates receiving Life without Parole and more receiving 20 yrs to life. Guys who would have received Life without prior to 1995.

The unexpected affect the new laws had is that fewer and fewer inmates with Life without sentences prior to 1995 were invited to the Pardons Board to the point where almost none are invited anymore.

Since Life without became a true Life without in 1995 many inmates who were sentenced to LWO prior to 1995 who could have a second chance are now denied that second chance. I am sure the numbers will back up this claim.

My opinion that Life without was used as a 20yr to Life is backed up by what happened in my case. I will not go into details as that would be inappropriate but I will say that the young woman who recommended Life without in my case also said on the stand during my sentencing that she believes I will get out of prison one day.

My point is, why would she say she believes I will get out of prison even with a sentence of LWO if they didn't use LWO as a way to make inmates serve more than 10 yrs. The Judge ran my sentences concurrent which was extremely rare. If he wanted to make sure I never got out he simply could have ran the life sentences consecutively. The only

reasonable conclusion I can draw between the concurrent sentences and the young woman's statement that she believes I will get out is that they believed after 20 yrs I would have my sentence commuted and be released.

Unfortunately because of the Law change in 1995 myself and others who probably would have gotten a second chance may never get it now.

I am not asking for sympathy. I accept responsibility for my actions and its consequences. I simply wish to point out how the decisions you make as lawmakers can have serious unexpected consequences. Consequences that can cost people the second chance they may have had at life.

Please bare with me as I talk about what a sentence of Life without Parole is like. Law makers have described the Death Penalty as the ultimate punishment but I believe Life without Parole is the harsher punishment.

If you are sentenced to Death you are automatically given lawyers and appeals. You may spend decades on Death row before you are executed if you are ever executed. After 15 to 20 years you will wish being in prison was over anyway.

I back this up with the knowledge that of the last 12 people executed in Nevada 11 volunteered to be executed and the last gave up his appeals on his own and accepted death.

They chose death over prison. They serve 15 years and would rather die than stay in prison even though they may never have been executed.

When you are sentenced to Life without Parole you may do 30 years, 40 years, 50 years or more before you die. Suicide is not an option for a person of faith. If people on Death Row would choose to be killed by the state after only 10 yrs, 15 yrs you can begin to imagine just how miserable it is in prison. Now try to imagine suffering for 30 yrs, 40 yrs, 50 yrs or more. How is that not worse or at the very least equal to the Death Penalty? You might say well at least you are alive, but that just means decades more suffering. Decades more of being a burden to your family and friends. If they even stay in touch. Most don't after 5 or 10 years.

In my opinion Life without should never be used on people under 25 years of age or even 30 years of age. To do so is extremely cruel. Being 25 and looking at 50 years or more of suffering in prison with no hope of a second chance. Who among us is the same person at 50 that we were at 25? Giving someone under 30 years old a 20 years to Life sentence serves the same purpose as LWO Parole. The Parole Board can keep them in prison their whole life if they determine they are still a threat, or they can give a second chance to those who truly deserve it and are changed people after 20 years or

more.

This is more merciful because it gives an inmate hope at least. A reason to change their behavior and become better people. To address the issues that contributed to their incarceration.

To me, in my opinion the greatest suffering one can endure is the absence of all hope.

I have been in prison for almost 30 years now. I understand that they are not supposed to be happy places but unless you have done prison time for at least several years you just can't know how miserable of an existence it truly is. I have seen things I can never unsee. Things I wish I didn't know. I may have to do 30 more years experiencing the depravity of this place before I die and I accept that.

As I said earlier I am not looking for sympathy. My goal with this letter is to help give you some perspective about prison life and the way your decisions can have unexpected consequences that can dramatically affect real people's lives.

If my story helps you at all understand more about prison life and the harshness of some sentences then at least some good will have come from my time here.

I truly thank you for taking the time to hear me out.

Respectfully,

David Pepper

State of Nevada
Department of Sentencing
625 Fairview Drive Suite 121
Carson City, NV 89701-5430

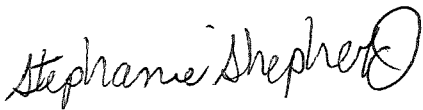
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February 11, 2021

Dear Sentencing Commission,

I have submitted several letters to you, regarding Kashun Boyd [REDACTED]. I request the letters that were sent be added as a public statement at the next sentencing meeting on February 19, 2021.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Shepherd
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1-13-21

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1/13/21

So it may concern
first of all Good Morning my is
Stephanie Shepherd I'm writing this
letter about Kashun Boyd his back
number is [REDACTED] bed A. I now when
Kashun Boyd did his crime I know
he did not hurt nobody and
when Kashun Boyd was on drugs
at that time. I now if Kashun Boyd
has someone there for him everything
will go right so I hope that you
will consider giving Kashun Boyd
that chance so Kashun Boyd can get
his life right. and there is this
place is called Golden life they
will help Kashun Boyd with
everything he needs so I hope you
considers it and I Stephanie Shepherd
give you my word as a woman
if you need to call my number
is [REDACTED]

thank you for your
time and God Bless.



GLC Wellness Center Las Vegas LLC
922 West Owens Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
702.846.6622
grow@glcwellness.com

RECEIVED
1/13/21

January 13, 2021

Depart of Sentencing Policy

Golden Life Wellness has been providing services for several years to the underprivileged population in Las Vegas. One of the services we provide is Mental Health assessments. Golden Life provides therapy, housing assistance, basic needs training and medical services.

Kashun Boyd [REDACTED] upon release, will receive the above-mentioned services. We have worked directly with released prisoners. The clinic will offer the services Kashun will need, upon his release.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Hoffines', is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Brent D. Hoffines MSW, LCSW


RECEIVED
10/23/20

to whom it may concern
my name is Stephanie Shepherd; I'm
writing you this letter concerning Kashun
Boyd - Back number [REDACTED] - Bed a. the Reason
why Kashun Boyd keeps coming to prison
is because he did his crime when he
was on drugs. they never give him a chance
of rehab or no drug program. not even in
prison. so how can a person change? Kashun
Boyd is really - sweet - kind - loving - Respect - and
he does work - so, if you give him a chance to re-
deem himself. we would really appreciate it.
thank you so much Stephanie Shepherd
phone number is [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Stephanie for about 6 years, and I have seen the magnificent changes within herself and how she has become a better person — someone you can trust and rely on when you need to talk to.

She has also helped me and another individual get off the streets and off drugs. The other person, she has helped him get off drugs for a year and helped him get his own place and a job and she has helped me get off of drugs and get off the streets and I've

been clean for six months. I think she would be a good candidate/role model to help keep Kashun Boyd re-adjust back into society and keep Kashun Boyd off drugs. 

- Alex Allen

Alex Allen 10/26/2020



GLC Wellness.Center Las Vegas LLC
922 West Owens Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
702.846.6622
grow@glcwellness.com

October 21, 2020

Department of Corrections

I have been Stephanie Shepherd's therapist for the previous 6 months. The patient has been clean and sober for 9 years. The patient is stable. The patient has her own residence. The patient currently takes care of her son and her uncle.

I believe the patient will be a good influence for Kashun Boyd [REDACTED]. The patient does not allow any illegal substances nor parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent D. Hofhines', is written over a large, light-colored oval scribble.

Brent D. Hofhines
MSW, LCSW

To whom is my concern I Patricia Gonzalez have been knowing Stephanie Shepherd for about 3 years she is a sweet lady and likes to help everyone as much as she can she is hard working people friendly and stays out of trouble she comes to Golden life everyday keeps up with all her appointments Stephanie is a good friend and I'm glad I know her. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at [REDACTED] Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED BY EMAIL #1

Hello, my name is Valerie, and my son is incarcerated at Southern Desert Correctional Center. I am a member of Return Strong and I am here to respond to statements made by Director Daniels at the December 9th, 2020 Sentencing Commission meeting and hope to actually understand where his information is coming from. I have been following the policy changes and watching the difference between what is said and what is done closely throughout the pandemic. My son is seriously ill and has an autoimmune disorder that makes him very susceptible to bad outcomes if he contracts COVID. As a matter of fact, we have been trying to apply for his compassionate release, with no success or even response. He was just in the hospital a few weeks ago, which resulted in a \$110,000 medical bill that we will owe since he is incarcerated. Since his return to prison, he still isn't getting the ordered medications and care, yet Director Daniels repeatedly states he treats each person as vulnerable. How is that possible when he doesn't treat the vulnerable as vulnerable.

Director Daniels stated in the last meeting that the inmates were being tested once a week for Covid-19, but that is just not true. My son has not been tested one time during the pandemic. Not at High Desert. Not before he went to the hospital. Not when he returned from the hospital and not since he has been at SDCC. And he is VERY vulnerable. He isn't alone, we have many hundreds of letters stating that since the beginning of the pandemic lockdown in March through the time of this meeting, that they were only tested once or twice, and at a maximum of 4-5 times. The director's claim of weekly, scheduled testing is untrue and reckless to make the public think that the department was testing inmates at regular intervals and ensuring a safe atmosphere.

Now that there has been widespread outbreaks at the prisons, the goal is to work towards vaccination at the facilities and the department needs to be transparent about the path forward in regard to that goal as they have not been honest or transparent about the testing of the inmates.

Again, if these were your loved ones wouldn't you be calling for full transparency and accountability?

PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED BY EMAIL #2

Good Morning, my name is Ashley and I am a member of Return Strong and have a loved one incarcerated at NDOC. I am here to respond to statements made by Director Daniels at the December 9, 2020 sentencing commission meeting that conflict with my LO experience and what we have heard from incarcerated people across the state.

Director Daniels has stated that each inmate has been issued two masks but my fiancée has only received one and has told me that some of the other inmates haven't received any. It is widely reported that they have never received new masks since the first ones were issued. In addition, most reports state that during the midst of the massive outbreaks, C/Os were. Not wearing masks correctly, and many were wearing gators. When incarcerated people would ask staff to mask up, they were often retaliated against or mocked and told that "I'm going home tonight, I don't care if you get sick".

He told about Prison Industries making hand sanitizer that isn't available to inmates because of

this “urban legend” about people drinking it. There may have been some, but there is a disciplinary process to deal with that that doesn’t require implementing group discipline that puts the other 9,000 people at risk, especially when soap and hot water are a limited resource. This could have easily been solved by putting portable hand sanitizer stations on the tier and near the phones, but it was all or nothing.

Also it was stated that testing would be done weekly but he hasn't been tested in over a month. They did give them N95 masks, but they were not fitted, and without proper fit, they're useless. We believe my husband, who is high risk, has caught COVID twice, we can't confirm that because he was never tested.

I am deeply concerned to hear the Director stand in front of us and tell a story that does not reflect the experiences of my loved one personally OR the experiences of the hundreds of incarcerated people that have reached out to us throughout the pandemic.

I remember one letter from a person at WSCC or NNCC, and they said that they were so sick, and turning blue. Medical would not even come to give them relief medications. He believed he was dying that night. The letter told of how he wrote good-bye letters for his family and gave them to someone to mail and then wrote to us. He made it, but how is that the best we can do. Director Daniels, I am concerned that maybe you are deeply out of touch with what has happened inside the walls to people you are supposed to be providing care for during their incarceration. We have to do better and we have to start with the truth.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED BY EMAIL #3

My name is Denise Bolaños and I am a member of return strong.

Thank you to the commission for the opportunity to provide public comment, you see without these public spaces I don't believe that we would have any kind of voice on the matters brought up at these meetings.

Matters that directly concern and affect us. Director Daniels mentioned at the previous sentencing commission meeting in December that groups such as ours have other avenues to be able to be heard by him and that our voices matter and they are heard. So far that hasn't been the case however and that's unfortunate because the concerns of NDOC and the ones of the families of the incarcerated, at the end of the day are one in the same. I want my husband to be healthy and safe and thriving in this environment for as long as he is there as much as I am sure director Daniels wants his staff to be safe and healthy and thriving. One cannot exist without the other. And yet That cannot happen in an environment where there is constant injustice, negligence and miscommunication. For example, We all lose when the department is short staffed or understaffed in any facility because it leads to our loved ones paying for that in the way of lock downs that the officers need to implement as a result and it makes the officers jobs harder as well. we both lose in this example. Alternatively, we can also both benefit in certain situations. incarcerated people being mentally, emotionally and physically healthy and strengthening ties with families matters just as much as officers not having to work as long and as hard to fill in those gaps and that means that the work life balance improves so they are also able to nurture family bonds. Every one of us benefits from a less stressful and hectic working and living environment within NDOC. Give families a chance to work with you through

communication and collaboration because when it comes down to it, our interests are one in the same.

Denise Bolaños Heredia

PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED BY EMAIL #4

Good Morning, my name is Amber, and I am a member of Return Strong and have a loved one incarcerated in NDOC. Director Daniels had made statements during the December 9th, 2020 Sentencing Commission that were not forthcoming and lacking important information.

Director Daniels stated that he has an obligation to keep people confined until they are appropriately designated the right to go home. Which is fair, and true. Unfortunately, that has not been happening. We have been tracking the parole action reports every month in January there were close to 150 people who had either expired their sentence and were not released, as in the case of Connie Arnold who was kept past her expiration AND contracted COVID.

Or they were granted parole, In the case of Robert Bowman, he was granted that right to go home, and granted parole in the spring of 2020 but passed away from COVID in December 2020, while waiting to be released on a non-violent offense. He was serving a 1-3 year sentence for a DUI and the state allowed that to turn into a death sentence.

I want to actually address the commission for a moment to say, Nevada has an issue with sentencing. We over incarcerate and criminalize behavior that needs treatment, not prison and that is something that needs to be fixed.

There are others who have had their release dates pushed back due to lack of programming. These individuals are also at risk of succumbing to the torrent of COVID. The goal is to rehabilitate and release those who have proven they are able to be successful members in the community. Instead, their family members are planning funerals.

The director may not have control of the fact that there is a global pandemic but he does have control of "the truth" and consequently the poor response of the state as a whole. We are begging for accountability and communication and transparency from NDOC.