

Friday, May 14, 2010

Office of the Parole & Commutation Board
Grandview Plaza Building
P.O. Box 30003
206 E. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: Joshua Puckett
MDOC # 250645

Dear Ms. Sampson:

My name is James, and I am a lifetime resident of Michigan. For many years, I have made my living as a retail manager, but as our economy shifts, I am pursuing other goals. Building on my Bachelor's degree in Literature, I am now enrolled at Wayne State University, setting my goal at earning my Master's in Teaching. I am a homeowner, voter, and volunteer with Habitat for Humanity and Motor City Blight Busters. I also intend, as time permits, to gain my Master Gardener certification. These are my main interests, the pastimes and pursuits that define my participation in our society.

I am writing to you as a citizen concerned with justice in that society. When we craft laws and punishments for acting against those laws, they are intended to create balance. Sometimes other concerns enter into a courtroom, and the balance is skewed. I have been told that even the judge in the original case against Joshua Puckett felt that a life sentence was too harsh, but the court was constrained by the structure of the charges. After fourteen years served, it would seem that anyone who showed as much interest in returning to the outside world and entering into a productive, settled life as Joshua shows, should be allowed the opportunity. The money being spent to keep him removed from a society to which he is no threat whatsoever could much better be used elsewhere, or simply not spent at all. I feel that in the case of Joshua Puckett, the punishment has outweighed the actual crime, and it is time to let him rejoin us.

Please consider my voice as one which will help persuade you that the right thing to do is to say, enough harm has been done all around, and this young man may now try to build a new life, on a different path than where his unfortunate teenage years had led him. I hope to have him as a guest at my dinner table, and to encourage him in his endeavors personally. My hope is that he may pursue goals similar to those toward which I am currently working. He can only have this chance if he is amongst us. Thank you, Ms. Sampson, and members of the Parole and Commutation Board, for taking the time to consider my words.

Sincerely,

James Dunn
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