

May 27, 2010

Barbara S. Sampson, Chair
Office of the Parole & Commutation Board
Grandview Plaza Building
PO Box 30003
206 E Michigan Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48909

RE: Joshua Puckett
MDOC # 250645

Dear Chairperson Barbara S. Sampson:

Hello! My name is Saroya Jamal and I am a very concerned citizen of Michigan. Not only am I a tax-payer who is questioning how the money is being spent, but I am also a human being who cares how others are treated. I am a community member, a graduate student, and a concerned citizen. I have been an educator and social worker helping juvenile youth in the city of Detroit who have made one bad decision. These youth are only slightly younger than Joshua was when he made one bad decision. The difference is, these youth have a chance today to turn their lives around and Joshua hasn't been offered that chance.

Many people make immature mistakes when they are teenagers, but this case has gone too far. He admits his mistake and the fact still remains that he had nothing to do with the death of that little girl. It appears Mike Cox used him to set an example of gang violence and to ultimately forward his own career. This man has suffered long enough for a crime he didn't commit. Did he even understand the law at age 19? Development theory would argue he may not have. It seems the only reason he didn't take the plea deal was to fit in with his peers- something we can all relate with. It astounds me that he is still in jail, and I am still helping pay for his keeping, when he wasn't even the one who fired the gun! What happened to the shooter? It's clear to me Joshua did not mean to harm anyone and this tragedy should have been stopped at just one life taken.

I ask that my remarks be taken into consideration by the parole board regarding Joshua Puckett's application for release and/or thank Ms. Sampson and members of the Parole and Commutation Board for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

Saroya Jamal
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