



Virginia Sheriffs' Association

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April 20, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
The Honorable Brian Moran, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security
Ms. Tonya Chapman, Chairman, Virginia Parole Board

The Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA) encourages each of you to take all actions necessary to rescind and reconsider the parole of Mr. Vincent Lamont Martin. As you know, Mr. Martin was convicted of brutally murdering Richmond City police officer Michael Conners in 1979. Having originally been sentenced to death, release on parole contradicts and makes a mockery of the criminal justice system that imposed this conviction, reopens all the pain experienced by Officer Conners' family and offends the Virginia law enforcement community. The former chairman of the parole board has reportedly justified this action by saying that Mr. Martin did not receive a fair trial and that he has been a model prisoner. No action by a convicted murderer of a law enforcement officer can repay the debt to society or heal the pain and loss experienced by Officer Conner's family.

The parole of Mr. Martin is shocking to all those who cherish the rule of law. It is impossible for those who appreciate the sacrifices of law enforcement officers to move pass this action.

The administration should reconsider this decision, given there is new leadership on the parole board and a public outcry because of this action. Clearly, reconsideration will serve your administration and the public well by recognizing the sacrifices of law enforcement officers everywhere and restoring a sense of justice in Virginia's criminal justice system.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Timothy C. Carter, Shenandoah County
President, Virginia Sheriffs' Association