

PAROLE BOARD CHAIRMAN JOSH WALL
ISSUES "DEATH SENTENCE" IN MASSACHUSETTS

by Timothy J. Muise

On January 9, 2012, Massachusetts Parole Board Chairman Josh Wall issued the first official death sentence in parole board history. This begs the question, "Was Mr. Wall wearing an official executioner's hood when he signed this decision?" The parole office in Natick can now be the evil replacement for the gallows, gas chamber, or electric chair and we can credit this to the new Prince of Darkness Josh Wall.

Francis Soffen was undoubtedly convicted of two murders back in 1972. No choirboy at the time of these crimes, and Frank has been no choirboy during his 40 years of incarceration, but Frank's criminal history, institutional adjustment, or efforts toward rehabilitation should never be considered by executioner Wall. What should have been considered was the fact that Frank Soffen no longer poses any type of threat to society as he is medically incapacitated, and in fact the compassionate release of men like Frank Soffen strengthens our social fiber, honors the core values of the founding fathers, and proves cost effective for the taxpayer. Do you think executioner Wall cares about these facts? Do you think he even comprehends the gravity of his actions as far as the decline of civilization is concerned? Certainly not. He sharpens his axe with a demonic grin as his blood boils with the power of his position. Frank Soffen suffers in his hospital bed, cancerous cells flowing through his veins, praying to the one true God for the chance to die at his son's home.

If you could see how Frank Soffen lives you might not hold him in the negative light many hold all prisoners in. You see Frank lives in an observation bubble, bed ridden, not able to wash, use the bathroom, dress, or care for his daily needs. Frank is forced to wear adult diapers because he is incontinent, and even sadder is the fact that he must rely on someone else to change those adult diapers. It is a good thing Executioner Wall did not want Frank to sign his death warrant because Frank cannot even hold an ink pen. Hangman Wall looks at Frank Soffen, sitting in his wheelchair at the Natick Gallows, and declares, "There is no basis to conclude that Francis Soffen is rehabilitated, and his parole is, therefore, denied." Let me interpret that in real world terms, "I don't care if your crime happened 40 years ago and society ruled at that time you should someday be released. I also don't care if you are medically incapacitated. I am sentencing you to death, a slow and agonizing death, because politics and rhetoric rule my blood lust. The safety of society and foundations of our moral society are secondary to the politics of the executioner." This is Josh Wall's real decision.

Every state in the nation has debated a death penalty. Massachusetts is no exception and the citizens of the Commonwealth have opted to support life, not death. Men with political agenda's, like Josh Wall, cannot be allowed to manipulate the system. When a man or woman is

medically incapacitated like Frank Soffen it can only serve the welfare of society to release them from incarceration. 40 states have some type of "Compassionate Release" legislation, and our Commonwealth has some legislation pending. Justice must be tempered with mercy and it serves no interest to keep the sick in dying behind bars. In addition to the social costs the economic costs of our aging prisoner population are drawing from the limited funds we need to rehabilitate the 95% of prisoners will be returning to society. Managed and specialized care facilities can much more economically serve the taxpayer through their housing of aging men and women prisoners. The slow death penalty imposed by men like Josh Wall is just too costly.

It is time to give the axe to Executioner Wall and his henchmen on this current parole board. Please contact the office of Governor Deval Patrick and let him know that you do not support this type of death penalty in Massachusetts. Let him know that you are aware of the what the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is supposed to stand for - life and liberty. The majority is not always right - let's remember that in 1862 most of the states in this nation were for slavery. They were wrong! Life & liberty eventually prevailed. It will prevail here in the Commonwealth but we cannot wait until more men like Frank Soffen are subjected to the will of executioner Wall. We need your help.

To find out more about Frank Soffen and the issue at hand please contact;

Timothy J. Muise, #W66927
MCI Shirley
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA
01464-1218

Francis Soffen, #W34022
MCI Shirley
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA
01464-1218

Please contact the Governor and tell him that you do not want the old and frail dying in prison a such a great social and economic cost. You can reach the governor at;

His Excellency Deval Patrick
Governor of the Commonwealth
State House
Room 360
Boston, MA
02133
(617) 725-4005
mass.gov/governor

Thank you for your help!