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His Excellency Deval Patrick
Governor of the Commonwealth
State House
Room 280
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA
02133

PRIVILEGED MAIL

Re: COMMUTATIONS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Governor Patrick:

Please allow me to take the time to herein ask that you return to your roots as an advocate for commonsense criminal justice reform, in the manner you operated when you were with the Justice Department, and act to issue some commutations of life sentences here in your last year as our public servant; the Governor of the Commonwealth.

I must offer that you have been afforded a new perspective on such merciful releases after your cousin, Reynolds Wintersmith, was afforded such real and meaningful justice after serving 18 years for a crack cocaine conviction. As a recovering addict I am grateful that President Obama had the fortitude to buck popular politics and make such a bold and honest choice; you must follow suit here in Massachusetts.

As you are more than aware there has not been a commutation of a life sentence here in the Commonwealth since 1997. How have you allowed us to stray so far from our societal foundations? Surely, without doubt, there are men worthy of such mercy; Thomas Koontz and Arnie King, as well as Joseph Labriola come to mind. In order to be who you said you were when the people of Massachusetts embraced you not too many years ago you must shun political fear and act with mercy before you depart the state's highest office. The blood of fallen patriots calls out for this. Will you answer the call?

From behind these prison walls, and in spite of your failed corrections system, I have changed my life. Honorable men serving life sentences have compelled me to do this. I cannot remain silent while these good men, men who deserve redemption, die here in your prisons; we are the ridicule of the civilized world for our failure on this issue.

Be brave your excellency and upon your closing of the Executive Chamber door release the men/women who no longer pose any threat to society. The eyes of the free world are watching.

Thank you.

Urgently Yours,

