

Hello, my name is Adair Hasty. I have had the opportunity to work with at-risk youths and families for more than twenty-five years and currently work as a social worker / therapist. This letter serves as notice of my support for the release of Barry Massey. He has served enough time under the Determinate Sentencing Guidelines for a first degree murder charge and based on this and other factors should be released. I strongly urge the Governor to consider this request.

I have had the privilege of knowing Barry for more than twenty years. I became acquainted with Barry and his family during a period of time when one of my own family members was incarcerated. Over the course of many years, I have watched Barry take responsibility for his actions, complete his education and become fully engaged in a number of activities within the prison. While he came into the correctional system as a young teen, who could not have fully understood the course his life would take that fateful day many years ago, he has become a man of character and maturity. Barry is ready to re-enter society and be a positive contributing member ~ one that has a lot to give back and is willing to do so.

First, Barry was the youngest person ever convicted and given a life without the possibility of parole sentence in the state of Washington and possibly the country at the time his crime was committed. If I recall the details correctly Barry was a somewhere between 13 - 15 years of age. There is simply no place in a humane society to incarcerate a young child or teen for natural life in the penal system. I can appreciate the gravity of the crime that was committed having worked for the King County Prosecuting Attorney's office for many years. A life was taken...under most circumstances a teen would be incarcerated until he is 18 or 21 years of age. This would have been appropriate. Or decline on him and have him serve an adult sentence for the crime of Murder under the Determinate Sentencing Guidelines (which were not in effect at the time of his crime). But life without the possibility of parole is beyond what this crime called for given Barry's age, mental capacity, disparate sentences and rates of incarceration African-American males in Washington State.

Second, Research provides data to support that adolescent thought is sometimes marked and / or marred. Teens tend to have mixed abilities with regard to their decision making. While this is a time of substantial growth, this does not necessarily mean that the teen's (Barry's) judgment skills lead to good decisions. Cognitive and motivational factors sometimes make it challenging for adolescents to FULLY appreciate the consequences of their actions. This clearly was the case with Barry. This bio-social factor should weigh heavily in the sentencing of Barry given his age, but it did not. Instead he was given the harshest penalty available under the law. For a child, this penalty remains morally and ethically unacceptable ~ life without the possibility of parole.

Barry has served enough time! Let's as a community and society move to reverse this draconian sentence and release him from prison. Allow him the opportunity to live out his adult life in a meaningful way and help other young people avoid the kinds of life altering decisions he made.

Respectfully submitted,

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