

Joshua Huff
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April 5, 2010
Re: Barry Massey

Narda Pierce, General Counsel
Office of the Governor
Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Attn: Governor Chris Gregoire, Narda Pierce, & Washington State Clemency and Pardons Board.

Dear Governor, Counsel, & Board Members:

I am writing this letter to support the release of Barry Massey from prison. I came to know Barry when I was a Correctional Officer at Stafford Creek Corrections Center. I recently (March 8, 2010) resigned to resume my career in the insurance field. A little bit about myself, I am 36 years old, married with an infant daughter and 3 year old son. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Washington State University (1997) and currently have a 4.0 GPA in my pursuit of my master's degree in Criminal Justice from Bowling Green State University. My hire date with the Department of Corrections was 04/07/2008. I found my time at DOC to be very interesting and I learned a great deal about society and myself. I met a lot of very interesting people, both staff and offenders.

There are a lot of people in prison that deserve to be there, and I'm glad that they are there. In my brief time at Stafford Creek I came across a handful of offenders that in my opinion should be out of prison. I became a quiet proponent for the release of Gerald Hankerson and Barry Massey. I worked in H2 living unit the day that Gerald was released. I started at 2pm that day and I missed it because he had left around 11:30am. I was so glad that he was released, I knew, and know that it was the right thing to do. I feel the same way about Barry. Barry needs and deserves that day. If you spend any amount of time with Barry you will know that keeping him in prison does not do society any good. Society would benefit from his release. The fact that he has spent 23 years in prison and is a happy person speaks volumes about his character. He is a very positive individual and has a magnetic personality. Being in prison did not break him, it made him stronger, and I respect that.

Barry and I are close in age and I think that's what initially interested me in him. I turned 13 in 1986. I look back at my life and think about everything that has happened to me since then. Then I think about Barry, and he has spent that time (minus one year) in prison. Barry Massey was at the time the only person ever in the history of the United States to be sentenced to Life Without Parole for a crime committed at age 13. That fact is astonishing to me. I have studied and researched Capital Punishment for juveniles and agree with the Supreme Court decision that it is now considered 'cruel and unusual' punishment. No child should be locked up forever. That too, is 'cruel and unusual'.

I consider Barry a friend and when he is released I fully plan on being involved in his life. I told Barry about a year ago that if he ever needed an address in order to get released that he could come live with me. I didn't leave the DOC because I wanted to help with Barry's release, but it did play into my decision. Barry is the kind of person you'd want to have as a friend. For somebody who has spent 23 years in prison Barry is a very centered and balanced person. He has a relaxed demeanor with a constant grin. When you look at Barry you still see that boyish grin, that look of innocence. He has yet to be afforded the opportunity to do what men should be able to do. I was a Recreation officer when Barry a

porter and I were able to talk to him all the time. Barry does not have any behavioral issues at all. Plain and simple. At this point, he is just ready to get out and go home with his wife (Rhonda). I can't stress enough to you how ridiculous it now is to keep him locked up. He is a good man, and deserves the chance to raise a family with Rhonda. I look forward to all of our children playing together. Barry does not have an agenda, he is not vengeful, and he's not going to hurt anyone. Quite the opposite actually, Barry will end up helping people and become a valuable asset to society, much as Gerald Hankerson has. I trust Barry to watch my children. I'm not crazy, but I am good judge of character. I was right about Gerald and I'm right about Barry. Let the man out of prison, please.

Respectfully,

Josh Huff