

JARED POLIS
GOVERNOR



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December 20, 2019

Abron Arrington



Mr. Arrington:

I am writing to inform you that I am granting your application for a commutation. After learning about your case and your character, I am commuting your sentence by granting you immediate parole eligibility with mandatory parole effective March 1, 2020.

My decision today is based on the circumstances of your case alone. The clemency power is unique and reserved for only the most deserving of leniency. My decision is not to be taken as a judgment on the wisdom of your conviction or a statement about any particular aspect of our criminal justice policy. Those questions are better resolved through our courts and legislature. My decision today is based solely on the circumstances of your case and, most importantly, the person you are today.

As of the date of this letter, you have served over 26 years of your life sentence. The crimes you were convicted of are serious. Nonetheless, I believe you deserve parole for several reasons.

At the time of your crime, you were 22 years old. After a jury trial, you were sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. Though you did not commit the murder yourself, you received a sentence for first-degree murder—the same as if you had been the killer. Your three co-defendants, including the shooter and the gun owner, received lesser terms of imprisonment and they have now completed their sentences.

Within the Department of Corrections, you have been employed in the Property Department and been housed in the Incentive Unit for several years. While incarcerated, you continued to pursue your interests in physics and engineering. You patented a flood-mitigation system and won first prize in competition for your flood-mitigation business plan. Your family and friends describe your dedication to helping others, your capacity for learning, and your desire to be a productive member of society. Significantly, you have a strong support network that is prepared to assist you and a robust re-entry plan, including an offer of employment.

You have taken full accountability for your actions and recognize the mistakes you made in the past. You are remorseful and ready to advance to a new phase of life. I believe you will be successful upon your release. In short, you have shown that rehabilitation is possible and demonstrate how every offender can use their time in the Department of Corrections.

This commutation will change your future. It is up to you to make the most of this opportunity.

Good luck to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis
Governor