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# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION

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April 21, 2020

Ms. Tonya Chapman  
Virginia Parole Board  
6900 Atmore Drive  
Richmond, VA 23225

RE: Vincent Lamont Martin

Dear Ms. Chapman,

It is my understanding that cop killer Vincent Lamont Martin has been granted parole, and yet, the family of the fallen law enforcement officer has not been afforded the opportunity to appeal the decision in accordance with current Virginia law. As a former police chief, I know you are outraged by violent criminals who not only prey on the communities we are expected to protect, but who do so with a blatant disregard for authority. A Virginia law that only affords an appeal process to the inmate ignoring any equality of rights toward the family of the victim is a wrong that needs to be righted.

The capital murder of Richmond Officer Michael Connors in 1979 was heinous enough that Martin's conviction resulted in an original sentence of death. The very nature of the crime and the original sentence demands that the family of the victim should at the very least be afforded the exact same rights as the convicted killer; this would be the moral thing to do. Officer Connor who was serving his community is now serving an irrevocable death sentence – it is only fair that his perpetrator does the same.

Therefore, as the President of Florida Sheriffs Association, I respectfully request that the VPB first, give the family of Officer Connor the same due process as his convicted killer has been afforded; and second, fix the law which blocks this equitable due process from occurring.

A wrong must be righted, and justice must be served for Officer Connor, his family, and victims across Virginia.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri  
President, Florida Sheriffs Association  
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

BG:aam

C: Governor Ralph Northham  
Attorney General Mark Herring