



C 2020 002

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Commutation of Sentence

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado by Article IV, Section 7 of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. § 16-17-101, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order commuting the death sentence of Offender No. 135951 to imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole.

I. Background

In 2008, Colorado Department of Corrections Offender Number 135951 (“Offender No. 135951”), was sentenced to death in Arapahoe County, Colorado (06CR705) on two counts of first degree murder (F-1). Offender No. 135951 has pending appeals and his execution has not been scheduled.

For the reasons stated below, I am commuting the death sentence of Offender No. 135951 to imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole.

II. Basis for Commutation

Commutations are typically granted to reflect evidence of extraordinary change in the offender. That is not why I am commuting this sentence to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Rather, the commutation of this despicable and guilty individual is consistent with the abolition of the death penalty in the State of Colorado, and consistent with the recognition that the death penalty cannot be, and never has been, administered equitably in the State of Colorado.

Offender No. 135951 committed heinous crimes. In 2004, upon the direction of fellow death row inmate Offender No. 133752, he murdered two individuals, Javad Marshall Fields, and his fiancée, Vivian Wolfe. Mr. Fields was a prosecution witness in a murder trial involving Offender No. 135951 as well as Offender No. 133752. The victims’ loved ones live with the pain of Offender No. 135951’s actions every single day. No punishment for Offender No. 135951, death or life imprisonment without possibility of parole, can bring back the victims or lessen the pain and heartache he has caused.

The victims of this crime have had to live with this case for far longer than they should have, which is its own form of injustice. While I understand that some victims agree with this decision and others disagree, I hope that my action will at least provide certainty about the outcome of this horrific event and accompanying legal proceedings. I am under no illusion that

this Executive Order gives all of the victims what they want or need, but I hope they will find some comfort in knowing that a final decision has been made regarding Offender No. 135951's sentence, and that he will spend the rest of his life imprisoned, with no possibility of release or rejoining society. I also hope that the victims find some peace and will finally be freed from the public attention that has forced them to relive this personal tragedy over and over.

My decision today is not a commentary on the moral or ethical implications of the death penalty in our society; rather it is a reflection of current law in Colorado, where the death penalty has been abolished.

III. Grant of Clemency

Offender No. 135951 be and hereby is granted a commutation reducing his death sentence to a sentence of imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole. This grant of clemency is limited to reducing Offender No. 135951's death sentence to imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole, and shall not in any way affect the underlying criminal conviction.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-third day of March, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor