



Major County Sheriffs of America

1450 Duke Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 • mcsheriffs.com

April 22, 2020

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

RE: Parole of Vincent Lamont Martin

Dear Ms. Chapman,

We have recently become aware that Vincent Lamont Martin, who was convicted of murdering a Richmond police officer in 1979 and sentenced to life in prison, has been granted parole in Virginia. We urge reconsideration of this decision considering the facts of the case and the apparent oversight that prevented the family of the fallen, Officer Michael Connors, from providing input into the Parole Board's decision.

The Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) represents over 100 of the nation's largest sheriffs' offices. We stand with the families of law enforcement officers everywhere who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their service to the public. In this case, it is our view that two trials and an appeals process were sufficient for determining the fate of a man who deliberately murdered a law enforcement officer. The Parole Board's decision is an affront to not just the victim's family, but to the millions of people in the larger American law enforcement family.

Nothing will bring Officer Connors back however, any process that could give reprieve to a murderer of a law enforcement officer ought to consider the input of the family of the victim and the department that investigated the murder. The MCSA respectfully requests that the Virginia Parole Board reconsider its decision and give Officer Connors' family the ability to provide input. In addition, any legal impediment to ensuring this occurs in the future should be immediately fixed by the legislature. Officer Martin's family deserves better, and law enforcement and the citizens of Virginia deserve better.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Koutoujian
Middlesex County, MA
President, Major County Sheriffs of America

Cc: Senator Mark Warner
Senator Tim Kaine

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