



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

MAYOR RANDALL L. WOODFIN

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

December 26, 2018

Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Trump,

I write to you today in the spirit of the holiday season, as we as Americans seek grace and peace, foster friendship and brotherly love, and carry a heightened hope for humanity.

It is with that hope that I submit this request for your consideration of the compassionate release of Larry P. Langford from federal custody.

Mr. Langford is currently being held in the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky, and his Bureau of Prisons (BOP) inmate number is #27349-001. Mr. Langford meets or exceeds every condition of the U.S.C. 3582 outlining the conditions for reduction in sentence, including:

- **Age 65 or older** – Mr. Langford is 72 years old.
- **Suffer from chronic or serious medical conditions related to the aging process** – According to the BOP finding, Mr. Langford “has a history of end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema, pulmonary hypertension, right heart failure, sickle-cell trait, plantar fascial fibromatosis, bursitis, esophageal reflux, dysphagia, hypertension, sensorineural hearing loss, pterygium, and anemia. He was issued an oxygen concentrator and nebulizer and ambulates with the use of a wheelchair.”
- **Experiencing deteriorating mental or physical health that substantially diminishes their ability to function in a correctional facility** – According to the BOP, Mr. Langford can no longer care for himself alone and “often becomes fatigued with strenuous exertion and is assigned an inmate companion to assist with movement and pill line.”
- **Conventional treatment promises no substantial improvement to their mental or physical condition** – His condition is determined by BOP to be “end-stage”.
- **Have served at least 50% of their sentence** – According to BOP, as of November 2, 2018, Mr. Langford has served 57% of his term of imprisonment.

Mr. Langford recently applied for compassionate release and was denied by the BOP last month, even though the general counsel admitted that he meets all criteria for “a reduction in sentence.” The BOP finding that Mr. Langford in this debilitated condition continues to “pose a danger to the safety of the community,” is not just absurd and insensitive, it’s heartbreaking.

Frankly, the BOP opinion flies in the face of both the criteria for reduction in sentence and your own well-reasoned and thoughtful basis for the First Step Act (FSA), which passed Congress in an overwhelming way. Despite a politically divisive climate, legislators embraced the rationale that the “lock-them-up-and-throw-away” mentality was financially and socially unsustainable. It shows the power of smart policy and compassionate hearts.

However, as he faces what doctors say will be some very difficult final days ahead, the BOP denial imposes a life sentence on Mr. Langford, continues to force taxpayers to bear the burden of the costs of his care and in no way makes our community less safe.

In fact, Mr. Langford is a patriarch of a committed family, is loved by his neighbors and is remembered for his lifelong service to children.

Please understand it is not my intent to minimize the serious nature of the underlying convictions. As a former prosecutor, my very core is centered on fair play, integrity and honesty. Still, I believe that Mr. Langford – in every way – is the ideal candidate for compassionate release.

As you well know and have previously stated, the American people are filled with wisdom and optimism. We continue to see the best in others and are the most giving – and forgiving - people on the face of the earth. Upon the signing of the First Step Act, you said, and I could not agree more, that the First Step Act and its sensible sentencing reform bring “much needed hope to families during the holiday season.”

The Langford family is in need of this hope today. I humbly ask, Mr. President, that you consider providing that hope to them.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if there is anything I can do in connection to this request.

Sincerely,



Randall L. Woodfin
Mayor