

November 13, 2021

The Honorable J. Kevin Stitt
Office of the Governor, State of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

RE: SUPPORT FOR JULIUS JONES' CLEMENCY RECOMMENDATION

Dear Governor Stitt,

My name is Rev. Joey H. Crutcher, a resident of Tulsa, OK and the Assistant Pastor of New Heights Christian Center. I am writing in regards to the upcoming execution of Julius Darius Jones which is scheduled for November 18, 2021. I would like to appeal to you Governor Stitt to search your heart and ask yourself if executing a man is something that you want on your resume when you stand before God on your day of judgement?

As an ordained minister, I have had to search my heart, as I've had to sit in the exact place of the Howell family who has endured the loss of a loved one as a result of a violent act. I know how it feels to want closure being that I have sat in a courtroom on two occasions where I wanted justice to prevail. In 2008, my grandsons Donivan and Adrion and two of their cousins were leaving church from Greenwood Christian Center, now Transformation Church on a Sunday afternoon when a car with a group of young men pulled up next to their car and shot at them with an AK47 assault rifle. My oldest grandson Donivan was hit 36 times and died at the age of 16. Donivan had hopes of going to college and becoming a broadcast journalist. His younger brother Adrion was paralyzed from the waist down, when the bullet pierced through his spinal cord confining him to a wheelchair. Adrion was a star on his basketball team. My nephew Jeremy's right eye was shot out and he lost the use of his arm. Jeremy was headed to college on a band scholarship. This tragic event was a strict case of mistaken identity and the young men responsible for the crime are now serving life sentences. During the trial we were asked if we wanted to seek the death penalty and declined. I got closure not because the young men were found guilty of murdering my grandson, but because I went on record and let the world know that I forgave them. The other occasion where I wanted closure and justice was when my son Terence Crutcher was killed by a Tulsa police officer named Betty Shelby. Yet again, I found myself letting everyone know that I forgave her for killing my son.

I know the Howell family wants closure, but taking life is not the way to get it. To forgive means you must have a supernatural insight about this life which we are all privileged to have. God is the final judge and we will all have to give an account for what we do while on earth. I pray that you consider my words when you make your final decision. May the love of God prevail.

Humbly Submitted,

Joey H. Crutcher

Reverend Joey H. Crutcher
Citizen of Tulsa, Oklahoma