December 16, 2021

James P. Sullivan  
General Counsel  
Office of the Governor  
1100 San Jacinto Boulevard, Fourth Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

During 2021, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles has sent Governor Abbott a total of 67 clemency recommendations. This unusually high number, not seen in almost two decades, is more than twice the average number of recommendations Governor Abbott has received in any year since taking office. As the Presiding Officer of the Board, I instructed the staff to carefully examine its practices and procedures in an effort to explain this aberration.

The results of the examination has revealed that the Board made a number of unexplained departures from its own rules in issuing many of its 2021 recommendations, e.g., Board Rule sections 143.2, 143.6, 143.10. I understand the importance of following the Board’s rules, and will ensure that the Board takes greater care to do so in 2022 and beyond. If it is determined that any of those rules need to be improved, they will be revised and amended rather than failing to comply.

To ensure that the 2021 applicants are not prejudiced by the Board’s procedural errors, the Board respectfully requests Governor Abbott allow the Board to withdraw and reconsider its clemency recommendations for the following individuals:

Bloom, Miranda Cydney  
Candelaria, Albert  
Cantwell, Kimberly Diane  
Charles, John  
Chavez, Manuel Morua  
Floyd, George Perry
Guillory, Tachel Lakaye  
Jones, Kendall Dwayne  
Kennis, Jed Louis  
Kreska, Daniel Sullivan  
Lomas, Alonzo Juarez  
Lynn, Kelly  
Maldonado, Rogelio  
Martinez, Samantha Jo  
McCook, Tammy Denise  
Mitchell, Jerimy Duane  
Oliver, Antoninette La'Quitta  
Page, Velta Shantey  
Pelton-Perez, Darla June  
Pruneda, John Paul  
Ramos, Oscar Armendariz  
Robinson, Randy Ray  
Rossow, John Paul  
Smith, Lifford Tyrone  
Torres, Michael Anthony

Upon completing its reconsideration, the Board will send Governor Abbott updated recommendations that comply with the aforementioned rules. This approach will avoid the two-year waiting period that would otherwise apply to an applicant identified in Board Rule section 143.14(b)

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter in greater detail.

Sincerely,

David Gutiérrez  
Presiding Officer