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BY EMAIL:

Janet Koupash
Director Office of Victim Assistance
NYS Corrections & Community Supervision
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Ms. Koupash:

I am in receipt of your letter advising that the Parole Board has granted release from custody on or before May 4, 2020 to inmate Steven Chirse, DIN 85-A-5212, serving a twenty-five (25) year to life sentence for the murder of Police Officer Angelo Brown. According to records, Chirse appeared before the Parole Board on March 18, 2020, after the time that DOCCS instituted measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I write to seek confirmation that any such measures were not considered in the release consideration of Inmate Chirse and for assurance that COVID-19 related issues will not be considered in upcoming parole hearings. Justice for the victims of these inmates, and public safety, requires that discretionary release on parole be determined with strict adherence to the statutory criteria set forth in the Executive Law, notwithstanding the present situation. Simply stated, the Parole Board has no authority to and should not consider factors outside of the statutory guidelines.

The courtesy of a reply is requested.

Very truly yours,

WORTH, LONGWORTH &
LONDON, LLP


Mitchell Garber