

Press Release

FROM: Richard Boling
Commonwealth's Attorney

RE: Letter to Gov. Bevin/Courier Article

I would like to first and foremost apologize to the citizens of Christian County for the embarrassment that I have caused this community in reference to the letter that was written to Gov. Matt Bevin on behalf of Dayton Jones.

I was approached by Mr. Jones's grandparents to write a letter to Gov. Matt Bevin. They expressed to me their thoughts and concerns regarding the way the case was handled. It was my intent to advise Gov. Bevin of **their** beliefs and thoughts. However, I failed to specify that in my letter making it appear as if those were my beliefs and thoughts, and they are not. Unfortunately, I cannot fix this perception, at this point. The Courier Journal article showed that I had sent the letter to Jackie Jones asking her "if it was ok". This question was asked to ensure that I had captured **all of THEIR thoughts and beliefs**. Again, I failed to state that it was their opinions and beliefs, not my own.

As a member of this community, I have believed, from the beginning of this case, that ALL of the people involved should have been punished and punished severely and consistently. The Jones's told me that they thought this case should have been an Assault case. This case involved an assault that caused a serious physical injury. My opinion was that since an Assault charge and a Sodomy charge carry the exact same punishment with a requirement to serve 85% before Parole eligible that it could have been handled as an assault. This is my opinion, **as a member of this community**. I do believe that all Defendants deserved to be punished and held accountable for their actions. I did not prosecute this case nor did I represent any of the Defendants that were charged.

I believe that we have a great court system of local lawyers, prosecutors and judges. I do not believe that our courts are politically motivated. This letter will have a dramatic affect on my relationship with those I work hand-in-hand with. I have worked for and with Judge John Atkins and have never known him to let politics affect his handling of a case. I have the utmost respect for him and our courts. Since taking office in January, 2019, I have been fortunate to work with the Attorney General's office. I have never found them to be political in any matter that they have been involved in. I have the utmost respect for the Special Prosecutions Unit, the Attorney General's Office and now Governor Andy Beshear.

In explanation of why I wrote this letter, I felt sorry for a friend and wanted to try to assist them to get their beliefs and thoughts, on paper. It has been insinuated that since Jackie and Tony Jones donated to my political campaign that I would, in turn, help them. I did not write this letter to return any favors but simply to get their words on paper. After I wrote the letter, I assumed it would be denied, as the majority of all pardon and computation applications are. I felt it was especially unlikely to be approved as the letter was written on Saturday, December 7, 2019, and Governor Bevin left office on Monday, December 9, 2019. However, the Jones's did find comfort in knowing that the Governor would at least know their beliefs and thoughts before he considered the application. I did not call the Governor or anyone on his staff to see if they had received the letter nor did anyone from his office contact me.

I agree that victims should be contacted before any pardon or computation is given by the Governor. The victims should be the first person considered before such a decision is made in any case. I apologize to the victim and his family for any part that I played in the Governor's decision.

Out of emotion, I made a monumental mistake in preparing this letter, in a rushed fashion, and not specifying that it was the beliefs and thoughts of the Jones's. I cannot fix this mistake. I can only formally apologize to the Citizens of Christian County, the victim, his family, and to all of those directly affected by this letter. This conduct is not reflective of my normal self and I can promise you all that nothing of this nature will ever happen again.