



# NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

328 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002  
PHONE 202-547-8189 • FAX 202-547-8190

**CHUCK CANTERBURY**  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**JAMES O. PASCO, JR.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

18 April 2019

The Honorable Tina M. Stanford  
Chairman  
Board of Parole  
New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision  
1220 Washington Avenue, Bldg. 2  
Albany, NY 12226

Dear Madam Chairman Stanford,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to convey our anger and outrage at the decision of the Board of Parole to release yet another cop-killer.

Just one year ago, you and the Board released Herman Bell, a member of the Black Liberation Army which was engaged in a terror campaign to commit robberies, bombings and assassinations of law enforcement officers in New York in the early 1970's. This killer is responsible for the murders of New York City Police Officers Waverly M. Jones and Joseph A. Piagentini. The death of Officer Piagentini was especially cruel—he was shot multiple times and was forced to beg for his life so that he could continue to be a father to his two young daughters. Now this killer is free.

A few months later you and the Board turned loose another cop killer—Robert Hayes was confronted by New York City Transit Police Officer Sidney Thompson after jumping a subway turnstile. This killer shot Officer Thompson down in broad daylight and escaped the scene. Four months later, he was tracked down and opened fire on five law enforcement officers with a sawed-off shotgun, injuring two. Now this killer is free.

Yesterday, law enforcement officers around the country received word of the latest perversion of justice to come out of New York—the release of domestic terrorist Judith Clark. This most recent cop-killer to be set free styled herself as “an anti-imperialist freedom fighter” and, as a member of the May 19<sup>th</sup> Communist Organization, allied herself with the Black Liberation Army in a plot to steal \$1.6 million to fund a guerilla war against the government of the United States. The botched heist resulted in the death of a guard, Peter Paige. These terrorists were then confronted by Nyack Police Officers Waverly Brown and Edward O’Grady and killed them both in a gun battle. This woman participated in the murder of three people and was sentenced to life in prison, and yet she will soon be free. In fact, to add insult to injury, it appears she will leave prison on 15 May—National Peace Officers’ Memorial Day. On a day that our nation has set aside to honor and remember those officers who made the ultimate sacrifice, and on a day that

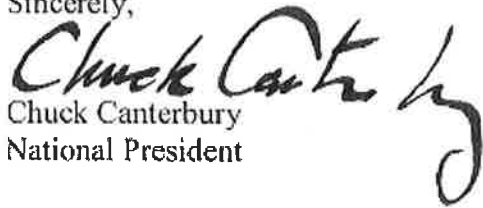
—BUILDING ON A PROUD TRADITION—

the FOP will grieve with the families who have lost their loved one, will also be a day on which a cop-killer goes free. This is an ugly and horrible miscarriage of justice.

These three cop-killers were sentenced to life in prison for their role in the murders of law enforcement officers and, instead of serving these sentences, you and the Board have helped them thwart justice and betrayed the families of these fallen heroes. Your actions demonstrate a troubling animus and disrespect for law enforcement officers and the families of the victims of these killers. I cannot adequately express the pain and sorrow your actions have caused, but I find these decisions to be repugnant in the extreme.

On behalf of the more than 348,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I urge you and the Board of Parole to make better decisions in future cases involving the callous murder of law enforcement officers. Grave injustices like these cannot continue if the public is to have any faith in the impartiality of our criminal justice system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Canterbury". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Chuck Canterbury  
National President