

August 4, 2021

Re: Demetrius Flores

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Helena Flores and I am the aunt to Demetrius and Damon Flores. I am writing this letter on my own behalf, as well as that of Damon and Demetrius. On April 3, 2006, was the worst day of my life and my entire family's lives. I learned that my nephew, Demetrius was murdered and died in his twin brother's arms. For 17 years, I was honored and privileged to be Demetrius' aunt. Damon and Demetrius are identical twins and I loved them like they were my own children. Damon and Demetrius went everywhere together. It was uncommon to see one without the other. I spent a lot of time with both boys. I would travel to see them play pop warner football or they would come and spend weeks at a time with me during the summer. When my family learned about the murder of Demetrius, my entire family was devastated, and my heart had never felt pain like it did that day and still does today.

Demetrius was an amazing person. At the time he was murdered he was only 17 years old and had his whole life ahead of him. He was so lovable, giving, patient, kind, caring, and always willing to do for others. Prior to his murder, Demetrius loved going to car shows with his girlfriend and working on cars. Neither Demetrius nor Damon were involved in gangs, had no criminal record, nor any conflict with the Defendant.

On August 3, 2006, the Defendant saw Demetrius, Damon and their friend, Chris Trevizo walking. When he approached them, he shot Chris and then shot Demetrius. Damon took off running, as soon as the Defendant began shooting at them. Damon fell to the ground and had to pretend he was shot and laid there as if he were killed too. The boys were unarmed and minding their own business when the Defendant shot and murdered Chris and Demetrius. When the Defendant fled, Damon ran back to Demetrius who was hanging on. Demetrius told his brother that he loved him, to tell his girlfriend that he loved her and took his last breath in Damon's arms.

Being identical twins, Damon and Demetrius share an intense bond that only twins can understand. The death of Demetrius has Damon devastated and lost. On the day Demetrius died, part of Damon died with him. For the past 15 years Damon has been going through life with severe PTSD and other mental issues which were caused by the Defendant and his actions. Since the murders and attempted murder on him, Damon has been in and out of mental institutions. Damon may be considered an adult by his age, but his mind is now of a child which was caused from the horrific day where he witnessed the Defendant murder his friend, his brother and he had to pretend he was dead to get the Defendant to stop shooting at him. Damon can no longer be around large crowds, he cannot live on his own, cannot hold a successful job or have a career. Damon now has to take medication to help his mind get through the day without breaking down. At times Damon wishes he would have died with Demetrius. Damon has been living with me and will go stay with his older brother for weeks at a time. It is so heartbreaking to see Damon going through life with all his struggles, when prior to April 3, 2006, both he and Demetrius were so full of life, ready and willing to tackle the world. Life back then was so easy for Damon, compared to his life now. Damon was not dependent on someone to help him or tell him what he has to do on a daily basis. He did not rely on

medications to help him get through his day. He did not suffer from PTSD. He did not hear gun shots in his head and his brother was alive.

On April 3, 2006, the Defendant was in his right mind and knew exactly what he was doing. Without any hesitation, the Defendant shot and killed Chis and Demetrius and began to shoot at Damon with the intent to kill him. Although the Defendant was a minor (4 months shy from turning 18) at the time of the killings, his actions were the master mind of an adult.

With that being said, what gives the Defendant the right to be released from prison? He has caused two families such heartache and pain. The Defendant should be grateful that he is alive, and his family still gets to hear his voice and have conversations with him. We will never be able to do that with Demetrius. We will never celebrate another birthday, holiday or be able to hear his voice again. Demetrius was deprived of life because of the Defendant. Demetrius was deprived from getting married and having kids because of the Defendant. Damon will never be able to speak or hangout with his twin brother again. The Defendant took Demetrius' last breath away and because of the Defendant's horrific and vicious actions, he should not be allowed to leave a prison cell. The Defendant should not be allowed to live life outside of the prison walls when he took two lives and attempted to take a third life. The Defendant should be remanded to living his life behind bars. If you allow the Defendant to walk out of prison without serving his two life sentences for committing cold-blooded murders and attempted murder, you are setting a precedent to all minors that it is okay to be a cold-blooded murderer and they will only serve a minimum sentence to the age of 25. If a minor commits murder without any hesitation and not in self-defense, then that person should serve the rest of their life behind bars. I pray that the Defendant's two life sentences do not get overturned and that there is still a Justice System. If the Defendant's two life sentences are overturned, then the Justice System has failed the victims, the victims' families, and most of all, you will be releasing dangerous criminals from prison at an alarming rate.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Helena Flores*

Helena Flores