

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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December 4, 2014

Mr. Michael Skinner (Inmate)
MCI Shirley
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA 01464-1218

Dear Mr. Skinner:

This letter is acknowledging receipt of your letter dated November 14, 2014; and is written to follow up on your following up on the Representative Swan ☺ As the Representative has promised, he has written a support letter to the Governor on behalf of Commander Joseph Labriola. Below you will find its content, and a copy for Mr. Joseph Labriola records is enclosed:

December 4, 2014

*His Excellency Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133*

Dear Governor Patrick:

This letter is written in support of Mr. Joseph Labriola (W34248), currently an inmate at MCI-Shirley as Commander of the American Veterans in Prison (AVIP), in his application for a commutation.

In my capacity as State Representative I have had an ongoing contact with Joseph for a number of years, and have found him to be an ideal candidate for commutation. Mr. Labriola's role as Commander of AVIP is appreciated, and plays a positive and stabilizing role in at MCI-Shirley; which demonstrates his rehabilitation and ability to perform as a productive law abiding citizen. He is a wheelchair bound Veteran, who has made numerous contributions to the quality of life for inmates across race and cultures. He is a human being who I am proud to acknowledge as a friend; even though I only met him in recent years.

Joseph Labriola served two years of duty in Vietnam; he has used his military training and experience as an attribute to work with other inmates in order to organize for positive changes in DOC. I am particularly impressed with the manner which he has used his leadership skills, working with a number of inmate organizations, most importantly, the manner in which he fought back racial divisions and homophobic beliefs.

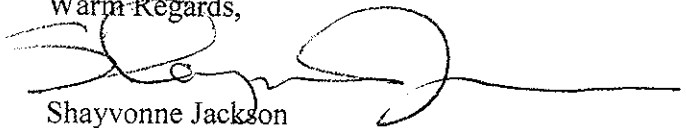
In short, I hope that these few words will help to communicate my support for this veteran; one who has made a mistake some forty years ago and understands and regrets the mistake he made, and is willing to make every effort to be a law abiding citizen today.

Respectfully, I ask that Mr. Labriola is given your most positive consideration.

*Sincerely,
Benjamin Swan
State Representative
/sj*

I hope this is helpful. I thank you for your efforts on Mr. Labriola's; behalf and for all you do towards staying positive and uplifting of your peers.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shayvonne Jackson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shayvonne Jackson
Legislative Aide/ Scheduler
Office of State Representative Benjamin Swan

Enclosure: Copy of Support Letter for Mr. Joseph Labriola (1 page)