

WAIVER REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

1. Name,  
Donald Edward Weston
2. Date of Birth,  
12-27-74
3. Social Security Number,  
397-78-2574
4. Type of executive clemency requested,  
 Pardon    Reprieve    Commutation
5. Have you applied for an eligibility rule waiver before?  
 Yes    No
6. Reason why waiver is requested,  
 You were not convicted of a felony  
 You are currently incarcerated  
 It has been less than 8 years since you completed your sentence (including all parole and probation)
7. Mailing address,  
Donald E. Weston #195666  
Racine Corr. Inst.  
P.O. Box 900  
Sturtevant, Wisconsin 53177-0900
8. Home address,  
See above
9. Telephone Number,  
See above
10. Crimes for which you will receive executive clemency if waiver is granted,

Crime	Date of Conviction Sentence and	Sentence Length
2cts First Degree Intentional Homicide	May 13, 1994	2 Life/parole eligibility
<b>1ct Attempted First Degree Homicide</b>		<b>7-6-2064</b>
Date of Sentence Completion		<b>20yrs consecutive to counts 1 &amp; 2</b>
Life		
11. Describe (do not just list) the crime(s) identified in Question 10. Explain the circumstances surrounding the crime(s), and why you committed the crime(s).

My crime took place on March 1, 1994. About a month before this horrible crime and my horrible actions, a robbery took place at the residence where my crime happened. I was accused of committing this robbery. The residence was a known drug apartment, which sold drugs. The occupants and I were friends and

hung out together within this apartment until the robbery took place. It caused a rift between us. I did not commit the robbery, and I tried explaining that to everyone, but one person did not believe what I had to say. This person was considered to be kind of like the head guy, and he persuaded the others to think as he thought. From that point on I stopped hanging out with these individuals and kept my distance, even from my own girlfriend and step-son, who also stayed in the same apartment complex. After staying away for three to four weeks, I went to the apartment complex to see my girlfriend and step-son.

On the night of my crime, as I was walking into the front entrance, a guy gets out of a car that had just pulled up to curb. He greets me by name because he knows me. He was a guy that also often hung out in the apartment where my crime took place. He asked me where have I been, and I told him that I had been chillin'. He said that Man and the other guys had been looking for me so that they could "squash" what was going on between us. Man, is the name of the guy who felt strongly that I had something to do with the robbery. To squash something means to work things out. I told him that I only wanted to see my girlfriend and son, and that I had to leave soon. He said that it would only take a few minutes and we all need to work things out, because we all used to be friends. I agreed with him on that and I wanted things squashed because I knew that I had nothing to do with any robbery. So, I went with him to the apartment. When Shane (Mr. Taylor), one of my victims, opened the door I was greeted as if we were all still friends, and nothing had ever happened. Once inside I noticed that Man was not there. So, I asked where he was, because if this was about us squashing what was going on, he was the main person who had to be present. They said that they did not know where he was. We had a little small talk and I went into the kitchen to light a cigarette off of the stove. As I am leaning over the stove to light the cigarette I hear the click of a gun. It sounded like someone was cocking it to slide a bullet into the chamber. I assumed that I knew who had the gun because everyone greeted me when I came into the apartment, except one person, Tae, (Mr. Johnson) another one of my victims. When I came into the apartment he was sitting on a couch with a blanket covering his hands and lower body. I rose from lighting my cigarette and told them all that I had to go. As I made it to the door the gun shots started. I felt myself get hit in the stomach and I started to shoot back with my own gun, while still trying to get the door opened. I finally get the door opened and I run to the back of the apartment. I couldn't get out so I had to turn and go back through the front. At that time, Pookie, (Ms. Brown), another one of my victims, came running out of the apartment

screaming. I called out to her but she did not hear me. I started running behind her to catch up with her to see who all in the apartment was hurt. She stopped running and I tried talking to her but she was very shakey and hysterical. I told her that I was not going to hurt her, and I wasn't. That was never my intent. I told her to take the gun and I extended it to her. She snatched the gun and it went off. She fell to the ground and I stood there for a second not believing what had happened. I picked up the gun and ran. I was arrested later that night.

My crime was committed for several reasons. One, and probably the most impactual one, is I truly had no sense of direction in life. I had just turned 19 years old and I had no clue of who I was or where I was going. I literally woke up every day with no purpose. I did not value the preciousness and sanctity of life. I did not know what it all meant. The next thing that played a role in my committing my crime, is I didn't have the mental tools to make better and great decisions. At 19 I knew right from wrong but I lacked the self control needed to make wise decisions. For instance. I carried a gun because in my mind I needed protection, or I did it because everyone else had one so it was cool to be seen with one. When, in reality I did not need protection and I wasn't a gun carrying type of guy. That night was the very first time that I ever used the gun. I was more scared than anyone else! Bottom line, I committed my crime because I was stupid and young. I did not have the sense enough to think about how my actions would affect, not just my family but more importantly, my victims family and a community of people. I am on my 27th year of incarceration and I can honestly say that not a day goes by that I <sup>don't</sup> think about the night of March 1, 1994, and the many lives that I have affected in a horrible way. I seek to, in some form or another, give life to some young boy or girl out there who is headed down that same road of not knowing self and that is living without a purpose. Life is truly too precious to just throw away. They really need to know that! I have done a lot when it comes to becoming a better person. I wish and pray daily to be given an opportunity to show in action just how sorry and remorseful I truly am for the lives I've taken and the pain that I've caused I know that that sounds cliche' but it is the truth. One of the greatest things that has happened to me in incarceration, is my participating in a program called Restorative Justice. This program brought me face to face with people who have been violated by people, such as myself. Listening to these people speak about their experiences and how crime affected them, made a huge difference in how I see life and the value of all things. It's hard to come face to face with Godly things and not be stirred toward change and a life of betterness.

12. Explain the extraordinary circumstances that you believe warrant a waiver of the Governor's rules.

At present the world is in a crisis with the out break of the COVID-19 virus. I am amongst those who are at high risk of getting this virus and dying from it. I am an asthmatic. I have very bad asthma and I am on medication to try and help control it. This virus attacks the respiratory system. When I catch common colds it's hard for me to breath. I can not perform certain exercises due to my asthma. Not too long ago I had to be seen by medical staff for inflammation in my lungs due to my asthma. The environment that I'm in puts me in even greater risk because social distancing is impossible. There truly is no way to accomplish that in this setting. We all share everything. Toilet, sinks, showers, dayrooms, phones, eating area, and the list goes on. In this environment if one person catches a cold, it spreads through this place like a wild fire. There is very little to no protection in this environment, for myself and for others who are also most at risk. Please consider heavily granting this waiver. I can promise you that I am not a risk to the public, and I won't ever be.

If waiver is granted, please know that I have several places to live, and each are very supportive and positive.

I certify that the information in this application is true to the best of my knowledg.

Applicant signature:



Date:

APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

