

Governor Michael Parson
Missouri State Capitol
201 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Michael Parson,

As leaders of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities, we humbly ask you to consider clemency for Khaliifah ibn Rayford Daniels, known otherwise as Marcellus Williams. While we come from different faiths, we believe that all life is sacred, and that redemption and atonement are principles that should be promoted. We seek now to promote the sacred life of one of our own, a religious leader, and an integral part of the fabric of our community.

God/Allah looks upon us. He knows our faults, he knows our weaknesses, he knows our sins better than we know our own, from the smallest to the greatest. He knows the difficulties and harm Marcellus has been accused of and has brought upon others. While He knows it, He looks on Marcellus, made in His image and likeness, and continues to love Marcellus despite his wrongs.

We understand Marcellus has not always been an upstanding citizen. He has made mistakes, and his mistakes have caused pain. But people are flawed, and our God is merciful and never ceases to forgive us.

Our request for mercy upon Marcellus is not about avoiding consequences or a penalty. Instead, it is about a lifetime of imprisonment. This grace is about dealing justice with the same kind of love God has for every person. With lifetime imprisonment, Marcellus will have a chance to continue his service to the religious community that he leads as an Imam. The members of the religious community choose their leader and the Muslims incarcerated in Potosi have chosen Marcellus to lead them in their faith journey.

As an Imam, Marcellus serves not only his flock, a group of men, many of whom have been abandoned by society and in desperate need of guidance and strength, but the institution as well – by providing a vital network of support for the prisoners. This faith community also plays a significant role in easing a prisoner's transition back into the community upon their release. In that manner, Marcellus has bettered not only himself, but many others. With lifetime imprisonment, Marcellus will have a chance to continue his service to his community and the institution.

We must restore the family of Ms. Felicia Gayle, Marcellus, and the wider community. All three have agreed to let this matter be resolved with a lifetime of imprisonment. However, the family desire, which the prosecution championed in its offer to Marcellus of a lifetime in prison, was vacated by legal maneuvers inconsistent with the family and prosecution's wishes.

We are advocating for life without parole and that Marcellus will remain in prison, with the message that his life can remain open to redemption, mercy, and the healing power of God and that he will continue to serve the Muslim community. Additionally, the family obtains the closure it has requested, the closure the prosecution has tried to give them, via Marcellus's lifetime of imprisonment.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kevin D. Anthony, Pastor, Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Dr. Miranda Avant-Elliott, Associate Pastor, Greater Fairfax Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Burton Barr, Associate Minister, West Side Baptist Church
Bishop Edwin C. Bass, The Empowered Church COGIC and Prelate of the Spain Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Rabbi James M. Bennett, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Shaare Emeth
Rev. Traci D. Blackmon, HopeBuilds LLC., St Johns Beloved Community United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Brandon Blake, Pastor, New Sunny Mount Church
Rabbi Daniel Bogard, Central Reform Congregation
Rabbi Karen K. Bogard, Central Reform Congregation
Rev. Dr. Linden Bowie, Pastor, Zion Travelers Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Gary Braun, retired Director/Chaplain, Washington University Catholic Student Center
Bishop D.S. Briggs, New Dora Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Wendy Bruner, Pastor, Peace United Church of Christ
Rev. Duane Burch, Pastor, Mt. Herald Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Rodrick K Burton, Pastor, New Northside Missionary Baptist Church
The Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop, Central States Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Apostle Damon L. Cannon, Sr. Pastor, New Beginnings Church/Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. Teresa Danieleley, Missioner for Public Advocacy, Episcopal Diocese of Missouri
Fr Mitch Doyen, Pastor, St Josephine Bakhita Catholic Church
Iman Wali A Furqan, Pioneers Culture Center
Rev. Alfred Gainey Jr., Pastor, Lily of the Valley MB Church
Rabbi Andrea Goldstein, Congregation Shaare Emeth and the Jewish Mindfulness Center of St Louis
Rev. Darryl Gray, Sr. Pastor, Greater Fairfax Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. N.L. Grice, Pastor, Greater Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Nathaniel Griffin, Sr Pastor Emeritus, Great Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church
Imam Askia F. Hameed, Assistant Imam, Al-Mu'Minun Islamic Center
Bishop C.L. Howard, Pastor, Greater Infallible Word COGIC
Rev. Carol Jackson, Pastor, All Nations Lutheran Church
Pastor Richard Jackson, Manasseh Ministry

Elder Stanley Jackson, Pastor, The Last Days Apostolic Church
Pastor Ivan James, New Horizons United Methodist Church
Bishop Deon K. Johnson, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri
Rev. Renee Johnson, Pastor, Murchison Tabernacle C.M.E Church
Iman Djilali Kacem, Dar Aljalal Mosque
Fr. Joseph Kempf, Pastor, Most Sacred Heart Parish
Fr. William Kempf, Pastor, Sacred Heart Parish
Bishop Anthony Knox, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Northwoods
Dr Aaron Letcher, Pastor, Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. Albert Manson Jr., Pastor, Solomon Temple M.B. Church
Rev. Jonathan Manson, Associate Minister, Solomon Temple M.B Church
Rev. Kim Mason, Pastor, First Unitarian Church of St Louis
Rev. Maurice McDaniel, Pastor, Mt. Bethel Baptist Church
Fr. Brad Modde, Pastor, St Joan of Arc/St Mary Magdalen/Our Lady of Sorrows Parish
Iman Jihad Mu'min, Majied Al-Mu'minun
Minister Donald Muhammad, Muhammad Mosque #28
Rev. Charles Norris, Pastor, St. James AME Church
Rev. Derrick L. Perkins, Sr. Pastor, Centennial Christian Church
Rev. Dr. Douglass Petty, Pastor, Fresh Start Bible Church
Bishop Ricardo R. Redd Sr., Sr. Pastor, New Direction Bible Church
Rev. Anthony L. Riley, Pastor, Central Baptist Church
Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St Louis
Bishop Derrick Robinson, Pastor, Kingdom Church STL
Bishop Michael L. Robinson, Sr. Pastor, Hope Nation International Church
Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis
Rev. Carl Scheble, Vicar General/ Moderator of the Curia of the Archdiocese of St Louis
Rev. Kevin Schmittgens, Pastor, Holy Redeemer Parish
Rev. Emmanuel Searcy, Pastor, Second New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
Rabbi Scott Shafrin, Director, Jewish Community Relations Council
Msgr. John Shamleffer, Pastor, Annunziata Church and St Genevive du Bois Parish
Rabbi Jared Skoff, Congregation B'Nai Amoona
Rabbi Lane Steinger, Rabbi Emeritus, Shir Hadash Reconstructionist Community
Rabbi Jeffrey Stiffman, Congregation Shaare Emeth
Rabbi Susan Talve, Central Reform Congregation
Rev. Karl M Thomas, Pastor, Morgan Street Missionary Baptist Church
Missionary Marco van Raalten, St Paul's Evangelical Free Church
Rev. John Walton Jr., Pastor, Maple Temple Church
Rev Ernest Williams Pastor Rose Hill MB Church
Bishop Anthony Witherspoon, 109th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Rev. Charlie Wright, Sr Pastor, Second Baptist Church