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Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Advocates Against Parole for Defendant Who Shot Officer

Klein submits letter to parole board backing officers seeking to deny parole

COLUMBUS, OH—Today, Tuesday, July 24, 2018, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein attended the parole hearing of George Walker to advocate against his release to the parole board. In 1986, Walker was tried and convicted for multiple counts of aggravated robbery and felonious assaults during which he shot at a pregnant woman and a CPD Officer. Walker has been granted parole twice, and both times has been arrested for violating the terms of his parole, including absconding to Texas.

City Attorney Zach Klein submitted a letter in support of the officers seeking for the board to deny parole to the parole board, stating:

“Law enforcement officers go to work every day and put their lives on the line to protect us. On January 21, 1986, Officer Gary Streeter responded to a scene after Defendant robbed a gas station where he shot at a pregnant woman then stormed into a crowded restaurant, where shots were fired. Officer Streeter selflessly put his life on the line that night when Defendant fired shots into his cruiser. Defendant was tried and convicted by a jury and sentenced by a judge who saw all of the evidence.

“Defendant was granted parole for the first time after serving less than a quarter of the sentence imposed by the trial judge. Were Defendant sentenced today, he would have served more prison time on firearm specifications alone. Defendant responded to the Parole Board’s mercy by violating the terms of his parole and was returned to prison, where he was accused and convicted of still more crimes. Despite his previous violation and prison record, he was paroled a second time and quickly fled the state, being declared an absconder.

“At every turn, Defendant has shown the Parole Board his willingness to disregard orders of the Adult Parole Authority and the ODRC. By violating the terms of his supervision both times he was released, Defendant has demonstrated to this Board that the risk of recidivism is nearly inevitable. Beginning with the violent acts against Officer Streeter and others in 1986 through his two chances at parole, Defendant has demonstrated to the public that he poses a risk to their safety at any age. A third second chance for this man is not appropriate. Justice demands that his victims and their families see the remainder of his sentence carried out.”

“Every single day, police officers go to work, and put their lives in danger,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “This man attempted to shoot a pregnant woman and a Columbus police officer, and is a clear danger to society. He’s been granted two opportunities for parole, and has failed to meet the terms each time.”

After deliberation in executive session, the parole board denied Walker's release.

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