

## Executive Department

State of California

### COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE

#### Demetrie Mayfield

On February 3, 1983, Demetrie Mayfield broke into the house of Ora Pope to confront her about turning him in for stealing her car. Mr. Mayfield spoke with Ms. Pope and her houseguest, Edward Moreno, for several minutes before shooting and killing them both. On September 30, 1983, Mr. Mayfield was sentenced to death. In 2001, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals determined that Mr. Mayfield received ineffective assistance of counsel at the penalty phase of his trial. Following a penalty phase retrial, on April 10, 2003, the San Bernardino County Superior Court sentenced Mr. Mayfield to life without the possibility of parole for two counts of murder.

Mr. Mayfield is now 57 years old and has been incarcerated for almost 36 years. In his application for clemency, Mr. Mayfield expressed remorse for the killings and wrote, "I think about them and what I did just about every day. I have no excuse for killing them. I know that I was young and wild. I am sorry for what I did to them."

Mr. Mayfield has worked to transform himself in prison. He has only been disciplined once for misconduct in the last 24 years of his incarceration. He has participated in multiple self-help programs, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Alternatives to Violence. In 2010, Mr. Mayfield completed vocational training in office services. He currently resides on the Progressive Programming Facility, an honor yard where inmates have access to unique rehabilitative programs and opportunities.

With better representation during Mr. Mayfield's trial, his attorney argues that Mr. Mayfield might have had a better outcome, preventing almost four decades of incarceration with no hope of parole. Mr. Mayfield's application for clemency details how his trial attorney's deep-seated and pervasive racial bias led him to consistently fail to provide minimally adequate representation to his clients, including Mr. Mayfield.

Mr. Mayfield committed a senseless crime as a young man and struggled when he initially came to prison. However, in the years since, he has shown a desire to transform himself and make amends for his past. I see enough progress on Mr. Mayfield's part to conclude that he should have an opportunity to make his case to the Board of Parole Hearings so it can determine whether he is suitable for parole.

**THEREFORE, I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**, Governor of the State of California, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the State of California, do hereby commute the sentence of Demetrie Mayfield to a total of 36 years to life.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of December, 2018.



  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

  
ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State