

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



December 17, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Re: Please schedule clemency hearing for Mr. James Dailey

Dear Governor DeSantis:

As you will recall, we reached out to you when we learned that Mr. James Dailey's execution was scheduled, encouraging you to halt the execution and commute his sentence of death to a sentence of life. We were relieved when the U.S. District Court granted him a stay of execution until December 30. We were also thankful that you did not appeal that decision.

In light of the federal court's recent rejection of his appeals, we petition you once more. Please schedule a clemency hearing. There is significant evidence of innocence that the courts have not yet considered, primarily due to procedural bars. However, it should never be too late for someone sentenced to death to prove their innocence.

When you led the Cabinet in posthumously pardoning the Groveland Four early in your tenure, you wisely stated at the hearing that, "...it is never too late to do the right thing." As in their case, Mr. Dailey may also be innocent. We implore you to allow a potentially innocent man to present his claims and evidence for thoughtful investigation and review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas G. Wenski".

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski, DD
FCCB President &
Archbishop of Miami

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Felipe J. Estévez".

Most Rev. Felipe J. Estévez, DD
FCCB Respect Life Moderator &
Bishop of St. Augustine

cc: The Honorable Ashley Moody, Attorney General
The Honorable Jimmy Patronis, Chief Financial Officer
The Honorable Nikki Fried, Commissioner of Agriculture
(Arch)Bishops of Florida
Michael B. Sheedy