

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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## STATE OF ALABAMA

May 21, 2018

Clifford Walker, Chairman  
Lyn Head, Associate Member  
Terry Davis, Associate Member  
Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles  
P.O. Box 302405  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Re: Judith Ann Neelley Parole Hearing

Dear Board Members:

Under no circumstances should Judith Ann Neelley be granted parole. Her crimes—against people like Ken Dooley, Linda Adair, Lisa Ann Millican, Janice Chatman, and John Hancock—include acts of unspeakable brutality. And her character includes a disturbing tendency to manipulate others towards her own, violent ends. These things alone should prevent Ms. Neelley from ever stepping foot outside an Alabama prison.

But I write as Governor to remind you of another important point that should not get lost in your deliberations. It is that the political branches of our state government unanimously have concluded that Ms. Neelley should not receive parole—not now, and not ever.

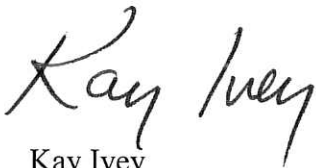
For one thing, it is the unbroken policy of the Governor's Office that Ms. Neelley never be permitted to walk our streets again. Governor Fob James, who commuted Ms. Neelley's death sentence in 1999, said publicly that it didn't make sense, and that he never intended, for Ms. Neelley to be considered for parole. As the current occupant of the office, vested with the supreme executive power of this State, I emphatically agree. Indeed, I would not have commuted her death sentence in the first place.

For another thing, it is the unbroken policy of the Alabama Legislature that Ms. Neelley never receive parole. In 2003, the Legislature enacted a law, without a single no vote, denying parole to anyone convicted of capital murder. A federal court recently held that your board cannot apply this law retroactively to deny Ms. Neelley a parole hearing, and you obviously must comply with that ruling. But at the same time, the law is still on the books in Alabama and will apply to any future inmates in Ms. Neelley's position. Nothing prohibits you, in your discretion, from considering the Legislature's clear policy judgment as you decide Ms. Neelley's fate.

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In sum, I have a simple message for you and your successors. Do not forget the depravity of Ms. Neelley's crimes. Do not forget the danger Ms. Neelley poses to society. And do not forget the overwhelming consensus of our state government. To do otherwise, either now or in the future, would not only be unjust and unwise. It would defy the will of our people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "K" is large and loops around the "ay". The "Ivey" is written more simply, with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Kay Ivey  
Governor