

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 17, 2017

Mr. Jerry Jerome Anderson
Atlanta USP
601 McDonough Boulevard, S.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30315

Dear Jerry,

I wanted to personally inform you that I am granting your application for commutation.

The power to grant pardons and clemency is one of the most profound authorities granted to the President of the United States. It embodies the basic belief in our democracy that people deserve a second chance after having made a mistake in their lives that led to a conviction under our laws. Thousands of individuals have applied for commutation, and only a fraction of these applications are approved.

I am granting your application because you have demonstrated the potential to turn your life around. My decision to commute your sentence will not result in your immediate release, and you will be required to serve additional time to reflect the seriousness of your offense. I understand you may be pleased by the commutation grant but disappointed with the remaining period you will have to serve. It is up to you to make the most of your remaining time in federal custody -- to take advantage of the educational and vocational programming offered so that you have the tools you need to succeed in your second chance. It will not be easy, and you will confront many who doubt people with criminal records can change.

But remember that you have the capacity to make good choices. By doing so, you will affect not only your own life, but those close to you. You will also influence, through your example, the possibility that others in your circumstances get their own second chance in the future.

I believe in your ability to prove the doubters wrong, and change your life for the better. So good luck, and Godspeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, consisting of a large 'B' followed by a stylized 'O' and a horizontal line extending to the right.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

