

MISSION [GREEN]

THE WELDON PROJECT

www.theweldonproject.org

March 31, 2021

President Joseph Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: *Clemency for Terrell Davis*, Case No. **1:20-CR-509-MLB**

Dear President Biden:

On behalf of Terrell Davis and his family, we strongly urge you to grant clemency for Mr. Davis, who is serving federal time for non-violent marijuana offense.¹ The undersigned—musicians, actors, athletes, filmmakers, current and former elected and appointed government officials, advocates, and business leaders—strongly believe that justice necessitates the exercise of clemency in this case. Our nation’s view of cannabis has evolved, and it is indefensible to incarcerate citizens based on the unduly harsh attitudes of past generations.

Terrell Davis, professionally known as Ralo, is an acclaimed recording artist who made the mistake of selling marijuana and was arrested in 2018. He now faces over 8 years in prison for violating the same federal statute that many entrepreneurs and corporations violate every day in 36 states across the country, who are not subject to federal prosecution.² While Mr. Davis was not operating in compliance with state marijuana laws, a federal district court noted that the

¹ Mr. Davis has been incarcerated for over three years and is awaiting sentencing in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia after pleading guilty to marijuana distribution.

² A recent report by the ACLU found significant racial disparities in the enforcement of marijuana. According to the report, Black people were nearly 4 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana than their white counterpart. The report also noted that Black people were also more likely to receive a longer prison sentence. See *A Tale of Two Countries: Racially Targeted Arrests in the Era of Marijuana Reform*, ACLU, April 17, 2020. (“Analysis conducted by the ACLU shows that due to racial profiling and bias in marijuana enforcement, Black people are 3.6 times more likely than white people to be arrested for marijuana... This disparity has not improved over the last decade, and in fact, disparities have actually worsened in most states.”)

recent “shift from prohibition to regulation moves marijuana-related offenses further from traditional drug trafficking offenses and closer to black marketeering in terms of severity.”³

The state of marijuana laws in the United States has rapidly changed over the last 10 years. For instance, 15 states and the District of Columbia have enacted adult-use policies and 36 states have legalized some form of medicinal cannabis. In 2017, then-President Donald Trump, a Republican, expressed support for ending the federal ban on marijuana.⁴ In November 2019, during a Democratic Primary Debate, you stated: “I think we should decriminalize marijuana, period. And I think everyone – anyone who has a record should be let out of jail, their records expunged, be completely zeroed out.”⁵

Following the lead of voters, in November 2020, the House of Representatives passed the Marijuana Opportunity, Reinvestment, and Expungement (MORE) Act, a law that would remove cannabis from the Controlled Substances Act and thus end federal prosecutions of marijuana offenses.⁶ However, despite this nationwide shift in attitude towards marijuana, there tends to lack any real avenue of relief for those who are still serving lengthy federal prison terms for selling cannabis. Given the gridlock in Congress and the imperative of freedom, clemency is the right tool to fix this problem.

While your predecessor commuted the sentences of over a dozen individuals who were serving lengthy prison sentences for marijuana, the vast majority of those serving time for marijuana in the federal system were left behind, including Mr. Davis, and public attention focused on the disparity between those deserving of presidential clemency and those who were wealthy or connected enough to lobby the White House. That form of clemency needs to be replaced with a principled, active, and meaningful program that better fits modern America.

You alone have the power to call out a grand hypocrisy of prior administrations. While cannabis became a thriving, legal market and enriched many, your predecessors largely ignored people like Mr. Davis, who are still serving lengthy federal prison terms for doing the same thing.⁷

³ *United States v. Dayl*, 980 F.Supp.2d 682 (D. Md. 2013).

⁴ In speaking in support of Senator Cory Gardner’s bill the STATES Act, which would allow States to implement their own marijuana laws, then-President Trump stated: “We’re looking at it. But I probably will end up supporting that, yes.” Eillen Sullivan, *Trump Says He’s Likely to Back Marijuana Bill*, in *Apparent Break with Sessions*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, Jan. 8, 2018.

⁵ See Biden, Democratic Primary Debate, Nov. 20, 2019; <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/read-democratic-debate-transcript-november-20-2019-n1088186>. Similar sentiments were recently echoed by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. See e.g., Kyle Jaeger, *Chuck Schumer Lists Marijuana As A Priority In First Post-Election Cannabis Comments*, MARIJUANA MOMENT, Jan. 26, 2021.

⁶ See Marijuana Opportunity Reinvestment and Expungement Act (MORE Act of 2019 - H.R. 3884).

⁷ Just recently, medical and recreational cannabis dispensaries were deemed “essential businesses” and were allowed to operate during the COVID-19 “stay-at-home” orders in over 26 states.⁷ This factor makes Mr. Davis’s continued imprisonment inherently unjust. See <https://tribzdaily.com/states-that-have-allowed-marijuana-businesses-to-remain-open-during-coronavirus-pandemic/>

In light of the current circumstances and the increased COVID-19 health risk, we respectfully urge you to immediately grant Terrell Davis a presidential commutation of sentence. He has already served three years in prison. This should be enough.

Sincerely,

Drake

Four-Time Grammy Award-Winning Recording Artist; Music Icon; Actor (credits include 11x Platinum Single "God's Plan," & 8x Platinum Single "Hotline Bling.")

Weldon Angelos

President, The Weldon Project; Co-Founder, MISSION [GREEN]; Former Music Producer (credits include production for Snoop Dogg, 2Pac's Outlawz, and more)

Killer Mike

Recording Artist, Political Activist,

Deion Sanders

NFL Hall of Famer; Super Bowl Champion

John Wall

NBA All-Star

Meek Mill

Acclaimed Recording Artist & Criminal Justice Reform Advocate

Barry Grissom

U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas (2010-2016); Former Member of Attorney General's Advisory Committee

Julio Jones

NFL Player, Atlanta Falcons

Eddie Melton

Indiana State Senator (D)

Lil' Baby

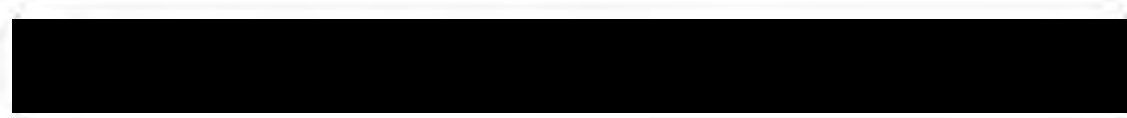
Rapper

Kevin Garnett

NBA Champion & Hall of Famer

T.I.

Grammy-Award Winning Rapper; Songwriter; & Actor



Katie Sinquefeld

Philanthropist

Kodak Black

Rapper

2 Chainz

Grammy-Award Winning Recording Artist

John Forte

Grammy Award-Winning Music Producer

Tommy Charles Boykins Jr.

Webb Police Chief

Dame Dash

Co-Founded Roc-A-Fella Records with Jay Z & Co-Creator of Rocawear Clothing; Founder of Dame Dash TV

Councilman khalid kamau

City Councilman of South Fulton, GA; Candidate for Mayor

Waka Flocka

Rapper & Actor

Pierre "Pee" Thomas

CEO of Quality Control Music (credits include groundbreaking acts such as Migos, Lil' Yachty, and Rich the Kid).

Lil' Yachty

Recording Artist

Jackboy

Rapper

Tee Grizzley

Rapper & Gamer

Mark Osler

Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas; Assistant United States Attorney (1995-2000)

Baby Bash

Grammy-Nominated Recording Artist



Loon

Former Bad Boy Entertainment Rapper; Criminal Justice Reform Advocate

Jeremy Meeks

Fashion Model

Louis Lombardi

Actor (credits include roles on *Sopranos*, Fox's TV Series *24*, *Natural Born Killers*)

Freeway

Roc Nation Recording Artist

Dante Thomas

Platinum-selling Recording Artist (credits include international hit single "Miss California" featuring Pras)

Brad Furman

Director, Producer, Writer (credits include Matthew McConaughey's movie *Lincoln Lawyer* (2011), *The Infiltrator* (2016), *Justin Bieber: What Do You Mean?*)

Alice Johnson

Author; Public Speaker; Advocate; President Trump Clemency Recipient

Gary Johnson

29th governor of New Mexico from 1995 to 2003 (Republican), Libertarian Party nominee for President of the United States (2012 & 2016)

Stalley

Rapper

Dave East

Rapper; Songwriter; & Actor

Gunna

Rapper; Singer; & Songwriter

Young Buck

Rapper (former member of 50 Cent's G-Unit)

Amy Povah

Founder of CAN-DO Clemency

Michael "Big Hollis" Goldstein

Music Producer; Filmmaker (credits include Matthew McConaughey's movie *Lincoln Lawyer*)



Marc Levin

Award-winning Filmmaker

Napoleon

Former Member of 2Pac's Recording Group (appeared on over 60 million record sales worldwide, including *Me Against the World*, *All Eyez on Me*, *Makaveli*, & *Still I Rise*)

Connor Boyack

President, Libertas Institute

Young Scooter

Rapper

David Woody

Republican County Clerk for Clinton County, Missouri; Candidate for Missouri State House District 8

Zaid Shakir

American Muslim Scholar; Co-Founder of Zaytuna College in Berkeley, California

Quavo

Co-Founder & Group Member of "Migos"

Stevie J

Grammy Award-Winning Music Producer; Reality TV Star (production credits include Puff Daddy's *No Way Out* album & Notorious B.I.G.'s *Life After Death* album)

Police Chief Christopher Hammann

New Haven Police Department (Missouri)

Jamie Haase

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

* *Affiliations provided for identification only.*

