



NATIONAL BLACK POLICE ASSOCIATION (NBPA)
STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE RELEASE OF
Benjamin LaGuer, APRIL 21, 2010

TO: Parole Board

Parole Board member Alicia Lapomardo, Alicia.Lapomardo@State.MA.US

The NBPA is comprised of active and retired police officers of color from throughout the United States. We call on the Parole Board to release Mr. LaGuer from prison.

We are an organization of men and women who stand for justice. We are committed to apprehending people who commit heinous crimes. We are against the imprisonment of innocent people for crimes that they did not commit. Benjamin LaGuer has been in prison since 1983 for a crime that he did not commit. We, the NBPA, believe that Mr. LaGuer's prosecution was influenced by the fact that Mr. LaGuer is black. In our opinion, the evidence shows that police and prosecutors mishandled DNA evidence; fabricated other evidence and withheld exculpatory evidence.

For good reason, Mr. LaGuer has many supporters calling for his release. He is fortunate to have as his counsel at tomorrow's scheduled hearing (April 23, 2010), retired Superior Court judge Isaac Borenstein. The fact Mr. LaGuer has steadfastly refused to admit to a crime that he did not commit was the key factor in the Parole Board's 6-0 vote denying his request for parole at his last hearing, in 2003. The NBPA is outraged that as a condition of parole, the Parole Board demands that Mr. LaGuer admit to a crime in which he had no role. The fact that Mr. LaGuer has spent 7 additional years in prison, when he knows that he could have been released in 2003, had he stated that he committed the heinous crime shows his innocence. Please release Mr. LaGuer.

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