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July 28, 2020

Mr. Daniel Thomas Hersl  
Register Number 62926-037  
MCFP SPRINGFIELD  
FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTER  
P.O. BOX 4000  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65801

Dear Mr. Hersl:

As you know, we wrote to you in January requesting an interview. We wanted to discuss the factors in your life and career that led you to engage in the conduct that led to your indictment, your conviction in February 2018, and the sentence you are now serving. We also wanted to know how your career experiences in the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) and matters in your personal life (family issues, substance abuse, financial pressures, etc.) may have played a role in leading to that conduct, and whether you think things would have turned out differently for you if your training, your supervision, or other parts of your experience within BPD would have been different than they were. The goal is to understand, not to criticize or condemn.

We never heard back from you, but we did hear back from your brother, Jerome. He said that you were unwilling to meet for an in-person discussion, and that you would only be willing to consider responding to written questions. That was – and is – unacceptable to us. Just as you would not have conducted a BPD investigation using written questions rather than an interview, we don't either.

Since January, we have learned a number of things about you. We have learned that you were born, raised, and spent your entire life in Baltimore, that you were the youngest of seven siblings, and that your father passed away when you were only 7 years old. We know that you have remained close to your mother and visited her several times each week until your arrest. We have learned that you know first-hand the evils of drugs because of the death of your brother, Matt, at the hands of a driver who was under the influence of drugs. And we know that you tried to steer people away from drugs and speak with them about the perils of drug addiction.

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Let me be clear – we have reviewed the record of your criminal trial, as well as the various letters you have sent to the Commission to Restore Trust in Policing. We are unconvinced by your claims of innocence. If a discussion with you would focus on your attempts to persuade us that you did not commit the crimes of which you were convicted, we would be wasting our time.

We have already spoken to one of the defendants in this case and found our lengthy discussion with him (by video) to be extremely helpful in understanding the factors that led him to engage in the conduct that led to his conviction. As a result, when we tell his story in our report, it will be based in significant part on what he told us. We are making arrangements to speak with a second defendant, whose story we will also tell, at least in part from his point of view. We will also tell your story, whether or not you decide to speak with us – but if we are unable to speak directly with you, it will not include your voice and your perspective.

We hope that you will change your mind about speaking with us, and that if you do you are capable of being honest with us, and with yourself. It would be helpful to us in completing our assignment, but it would also potentially be of great value to BPD recruits and young officers. If they could hear from you about the choices you made and why you made them, it might well help them to avoid the pressures and turn away from the temptations that you faced. It would be a way for you to give back.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bromwich

cc: Honorable Catherine C. Blake  
United States District Judge

Honorable James K. Bredar  
United States District Judge