Disclaimer

In no way am I the author of this essay glorifying violence inside or outside of prison.

I am only revealing what my time on the inside has been like and a way to show readers that there is a lot wrong with this system called justice.

With Kind Regards

Mr. Joshua H. McRae
I, Mr. Joshua G. McRaven, am a North Carolina state prisoner who is counted among the most dangerous prisoners within this state. My record of violent assaults on officers has given me this unwanted distinction within the prison system. I’ve done over 10 years on lock-up, solitary confinement, supermax confinement, and the longest time in supermax confinement was seven (7) years. This is because there is a rule that any infraction that results in a guilty plea or guilty verdict with the disciplinary hearing officer will result in a restart of an offender.

I have a psychology degree that I obtained through correspondence courses. I used and still use myself as proof that the less a prisoner has to do with his or her time, the more likely they are to commit rule violations, and develop a lack of concern for consequences that later on usually leads to coming back or at times right back to prison. Parole post-release violators are a big part of the N.C. prisoner population. Studies show that in North Carolina in 2000 there were 31,986 people in state prisons, in 2017 that number increased to 34,394 and in 2019 the number was down to 34,899, a -4.1% change from 2017 to 2018. Understand that this study doesn’t include any account on repeat offenders such as post-release parole violators.

I am among this group of parole post-release violators only because the parole commission can violate you on the grounds of the severity of your pending charges without any conviction, further more you cannot post a bond with a parole hold on your file. So this treatment is tantamount to coercion to re-enter prison in order to be able to post a bond on a charge that maybe dismissed or you have a strong chance to be acquitted of during trial. I myself was charged with attempted murder in 2015 after doing over 15 years in prison for armed robbery, weapons of mass destruction, and assaults that I incurred during my time in prison. My original sentence was only 9 to 11½ years. The 2015 attempted murder was dismissed 33 months later. In February 2018, I was sent back to prison as a parole violator and wasn’t given a bond because of the post-release parole hold, so after the serving of 9 months which was the remainder of the old sentence I ended up stabbing another prisoner while in county jail awaiting trial. I was found guilty of a lesser assault charge for the ‘juvenile stabbing.’

Upon direct appeal my case was over turned and I was given a misdemeanor assault with a deadly weapon. But I had incurred too many malicious conduct by prisoner charges for spitting in the face of a jail guard who hung up the telephone when I was talking to my daughter whom had just been shot the day before. Also for throwing bleach in the Sergeant’s face for using racial epithets towards me. So the 33 months of jail credit time was applied to my plea of 33 to 49 months, with the 33 month time I was given a 3 to 10 month sentence.

I served my sentence and was released on 2-7-2020 and put on parole post-release. I applied for transitional housing but was denied, because I was not a drug user. A pedophile, and once again my violent prison and violent street record where held against me. I was able to find work in Lincoln County NC and I had 3 jobs at one time that all paid good wages. I am the North Carolina director of the Hermenious Volunteer Center, a non-profit organization that is...
Headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, my mother is the C.E.O. / President now after the loss of Mr. Irvin B. Shannon.

And yet, with all of the good that came out of my experience on the outside, here I set once again in a maximum security cell in North Carolina for an attempted first degree murder, that I didn't commit.

What's wrong with my story is that there isn't any helpful outlets or programs for violent felons in this state. Also the parole post-release commission charges $250 for an arbitration hearing. For an inter-state compact, I could not gain acceptance in three different states in which I have immediate family in. The arbitrator cited my record as a violent felon and my violent prison record as grounds not to allow the compact.

But wouldn't going to a place where no one knows my name or my past do me more justice than going back to the place in which I am known as my record shows me? The rules of the post-release parole commission also states that "If an offender upon release cannot provide an appropriate address prior to release, offender must return to county of offense."

So let see that the post-release parole structured a set of rules and guidelines designed to bring offenders back to prison, due in part to a lack of resources and alternative programs that help prepare violent felons for release and also more state halfway houses for males need to be established and also more of a need for non-faith based groups to become more involved.

In closing I leave you with this.

All people have a choice when it comes to good or bad, but all people do not have the same circumstances to choose the good in all situations.

By: Mr. Joshua D. McRae
1. Control Status: Name for time spent in solitary confinement, more commonly known as the hole, or time in the hole, or lock down time, also dead time.

2. File jacket! A folder that shows everything that a prisoner has done in his or her prison stay, good or bad, also consists of mug shots and security alerts if needed. Follows prisoner to every prison he or she is sent to.

3. Interstate compact: A deal with another state to hold, monitor, or house a prisoner from another state. For any reason of custody, parole, post-release, probation, safekeeping, to eliminate the influence or threat of any one prisoner or group of prisoners held in the state.

NOTES

4. Prison population by state 2000-18
   Source: National Prisoner Statistics Program, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)
   U.S. Department of Justice
   From: The World Almanac and Book of Facts 2021

5. Jail credit: Time spent in county jail prior to going to trial. This time is a credit to the sentence imposed upon you by the court for everyday you are in jail.

6. Direct appeal: The process of a circuit courts review of the district courts decision and actions during jury trial. This appeal is automatic and doesn't involve a collateral attack. (Also direct review: Judicial review of a case obtained through ordinary appellate procedure rather than through a collateral attack.)