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MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 13, 2026

Massachusetts Parole Board
12 Mercer Road
Natick, MA 01760

Re: Opposition to Parole (Jose Colon)

Dear Chair Gomez and Members of the Parole Board:

I write with deep respect for the Board's responsibilities and with full appreciation for the gravity of the decision before you. Parole determinations require rigorous consideration, independent judgment and fidelity to the integrity of the process. Given the extraordinary significance this case holds for our state, I believe it is necessary to voice my clear and unequivocal opposition to Jose Colon's release.

Jose Colon is serving a life sentence for his role in the murder of Massachusetts State Trooper George L. Hanna, who was killed in the line of duty on February 26, 1983, in Auburn. What began as a routine law enforcement encounter in the parking lot of a liquor store became a deadly ambush by three armed men, including Colon, who intended to commit a robbery. During that violent confrontation, Colon shot Trooper Hanna repeatedly at close range, resulting in fatal injuries. Trooper Hanna's family, including his wife, Marilyn, and their three children, Deborah, Kimberly, and Michael, have lived with this unimaginable loss ever since.

This offense inflicted profound and lasting harm. In a civil society, law enforcement officers uphold the laws that allow our communities to live in peace and safety. The intentional killing of an officer in the line of duty is not only a brutal crime against one person; it is a violent assault on the rule of law and on the institutions the public depends on for safety and justice. Its impact is carried across generations by a grieving family and shouldered by a law enforcement community that will always remember and mourn its fallen.

Trooper Hanna's sacrifice represents the highest ideals of public service: courage, duty and the willingness to step into danger for others. Massachusetts' most prestigious law enforcement honor bears his name. Since its inception in 1983, 190 individuals have received the Hanna Award Medal of Honor, our state's most distinguished commendation for exceptional acts of bravery. Each year, these awards remind all of us of the magnitude of Trooper Hanna's sacrifice,

the pain suffered by his loved ones, and our obligation to honor his service. They also recognize the significant risks assumed by those who serve, and the sacrifices made by the families who support them.

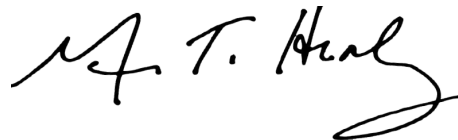
Trooper Hanna's family has continued to honor his legacy in a deeply tangible way. His daughters, Deborah and Kimberly, still present the awards in his name, keeping their father's memory central to the Commonwealth's recognition of courage and dedication in law enforcement. For the past 10 years, I have personally sat with Deborah and Kimberly at the Hanna Award ceremony and have witnessed the pain they continue to endure because of their father's brutal murder.

Massachusetts rightly holds Trooper Hanna's name as a symbol of honor and valor. Releasing the individual who fired the shots that killed Trooper Hanna would diminish the meaning of the very legacy we continue to uphold and would send a dangerous signal that deliberate killing of a police officer is anything less than the most heinous of crimes.

I recognize that the Board must evaluate parole matters within its legal mandate and established criteria. Nothing in this letter is intended to lessen that duty or substitute my judgment for yours. I write to state plainly that the nature of this offense, the magnitude of its harm, the welfare of this state, and the enduring public significance of Trooper Hanna's sacrifice weigh decisively against release. For these reasons, I strongly urge the Board to deny parole for Jose Colon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. T. Healey", with a stylized, flowing script.

Maura T. Healey
Governor