



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Executive Department

### **TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME – GREETINGS:**

**WHEREAS**, Messiah Aladar Johnson was convicted in the Norfolk City Circuit Court on October 29, 1998, of numerous felonies: Robbery (5 counts), Use of a Firearm in Commission of a Felony (12 Counts), Attempted Robbery, Abduction (6 Counts), Shooting into an Occupied Building (1 Count), and sentenced to an active period of incarceration of 132 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Messiah Aladar Johnson was convicted in the Portsmouth City Circuit Court on January 21, 1999 for Bodily Injury to a Correctional Employee and on August 17, 1999 for Escape by Force and sentenced to an active period of incarnation of 12 months; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Johnson has maintained his innocence of these crimes and already served twenty years in prison;

**WHEREAS**, by counsel, Messiah Aladar Johnson filed his petition seeking executive clemency, specifically requesting an absolute and/or a conditional pardon; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Johnson was effectively given a life sentence for a crime committed as a young adult and is not parole-eligible; and

**WHEREAS**, credible evidence exists that support Mr. Johnson's claims of being innocent of the underlying offense which resulted in his incarceration; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 11, 2017, after a careful review of all known facts and circumstances, the Virginia Parole Board recommended a conditional pardon; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been insufficient time to make a determination on Mr. Johnson's petition for an absolute pardon; and

**WHEREAS**, Messiah Aladar Johnson appears to be a proper subject for clemency, specifically for favorable consideration of his petition for a conditional pardon;

**NOW THEREFORE**, in accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 12 of the Constitution of Virginia, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby grant Messiah Aladar Johnson, a Conditional Pardon for the above listed convictions received on October 29, 1998, January 21, 1999, and August 17, 1999, reducing his sentence to time-served plus the period it takes for him to complete the Re-entry Program provided by the Virginia Department of Corrections, as well as a three-year period of supervised release. This pardon is conditioned on Mr. Johnson abiding by the following conditions:

- 1.) He successfully completes the Re-entry program provided by the Virginia Department of Corrections.
- 2.) He enter a three-year period of supervision to be established by the Virginia Parole Board after his release from prison.
- 3.) He comply with all other conditions set by the Virginia Parole Board during his supervised release.

The Virginia Parole Board may revoke Messiah Aladar Johnson's pardon, based on a violation of one or more of the conditions above, or based on a finding by the Board that he is otherwise unfit or unsuitable to remain on supervision. Messiah Aladar Johnson shall be subject to arrest upon cause shown by the Virginia Parole Board or the Parole Officer.

Given under my hand and the Lesser Seal of the Commonwealth at Richmond, this 12th day of January in the year of two thousand and eighteen and this 242nd year of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor

Attest:

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Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth