

From: [Jeffrey Stonebraker](#)
To: [Public Affairs](#)
Subject: [External] Comments on policy priorities for the United States Sentencing Commission
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FROM: Jeffrey S. Stonebraker
2022

16 Oct.

Subject: Comments on policy priorities for the United States Sentencing Commission

TO: Honorable Carlton W. Reeves, Chair
US District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi

Dear Honorable Judge Reeves:

Out of the 13 proposed priorities in the Federal Register Notice of Proposed 2022-2023 Priorities, please consider moving forward with the following two:

(1) Consideration of possible amendments to §1B1.13 (Reduction in Term of Imprisonment Under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A) (Policy Statement)) to (A) implement the First Step Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–391); and (B) further describe what should be considered extraordinary and compelling reasons for sentence reductions under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A).

(7) In light of the Commission’s studies on recidivism, consideration of possible amendments to the Guidelines Manual relating to criminal history to address (A) the impact of “status” points under subsection (d) of §4A1.1 (Criminal History Category); and (B) the treatment of defendants with zero criminal history points.

In 2019, Stephen C. Peters (64439-056) was convicted of several white-collar crimes (all non-violent crimes). The judge sentenced him to 40 years in prison. Mr. Peters has a criminal history score of "0" and he is a first-time offender of non-violent crimes. Mr. Peters was a captain in the United States Marine Corps. I have known Steve Peters for 11 years, including the last 3 years of Steve’s incarceration. My relationship with Steve has been as a friend and his client at Vision Quest. As a so-called victim of Steve’s crimes, I strongly believe that his 40-year sentence is extreme. I request the US Sentencing Commission investigate first-time offenders of non-violent (white-collar) crimes and excessive prison sentences.

Sincerely,



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Jeffrey S. Stonebraker, Ph.D.
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