


THE STATE OF



TENNESSEE  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

## COMMUTATION

### TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

**WHEREAS**, on August 25, 2006, in the Criminal Court of Davidson County, Tennessee, Cyntoia Denise Brown (TOMIS # 00410593) was convicted of first-degree murder, felony-murder, and especially aggravated robbery (case no. 2005-a-215). She received a sentence of life imprisonment with the possibility of parole for the merged murder convictions and a concurrent sentence of twenty years' imprisonment for the especially aggravated robbery conviction. The especially aggravated robbery conviction was subsequently modified by the Tennessee Court of Appeals to aggravated robbery, and on remand, the trial court sentenced her to eight years on that conviction, to be served concurrently with her life sentence; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennessee's constitution and statutory law authorize the governor to grant executive clemency, including the power to commute sentences; and

**WHEREAS**, this case appears to me to be a proper one for the exercise of executive clemency for the following reasons:

Ms. Brown was convicted for the 2004 murder of 43-year old Nashville real estate agent Johnny Allen, which occurred when then-16-year-old Brown was picked up by Allen and taken to his home. Under state law, she is not eligible for parole consideration until 2055 at the earliest. Over her more than fourteen years of incarceration, Ms. Brown has demonstrated extraordinary growth and rehabilitation. She earned her GED and completed an associate degree through the Lipscomb LIFE Program in 2015 while achieving a 4.0 GPA. It is anticipated that she will complete her bachelor's degree in 2019. Numerous persons, from prison officials to volunteers and others who have spent time with her in recent years, have attested to and lauded Ms. Brown's personal transformation, consideration for and desire to help others, work ethic, and preparedness to be a positive influence on the community upon release. The Tennessee Board of Parole issued a positive recommendation for granting a commutation in favor of Ms. Brown.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 6 of the Tennessee Constitution and by the laws of the State of Tennessee, do hereby commute the sentence imposed upon Cyntoia Denise Brown for her conviction of first-degree murder to release her to parole supervision on August 7, 2019, and to time served on August 7, 2029. Ms. Brown shall live the life of a good citizen and shall not violate any of the laws of the United States, the State of Tennessee, or any other state and shall not be guilty of conduct which is illegal or improper in the opinion of the governor. The Tennessee Department of Correction shall place Ms. Brown in transition/re-entry programming for an adequate period of time prior to her release to parole supervision. In addition, this commutation is subject to Ms. Brown's compliance with a release plan approved by the Tennessee Department of Correction, the conditions required by the standard Parole Certificate, and the following special supervision conditions established by the governor:

1. Ms. Brown shall fully and actively participate in assigned transition and re-entry programming prior to her release from incarceration.
2. Ms. Brown shall make all reasonable efforts to complete any credits remaining to obtain a bachelor's degree prior to or after her release from incarceration.
3. While subject to parole supervision, Ms. Brown shall work steadily in a lawful occupation, which may include an internship or educational or workforce training program. If she becomes

unemployed, Ms. Brown shall immediately report that to her parole officer and make reasonable efforts to obtain another occupation.

4. While subject to parole supervision, Ms. Brown shall participate in regular counseling sessions with a licensed provider, to the extent deemed beneficial by such provider. Ms. Brown's parole officer, in consultation with the provider, shall oversee compliance with this condition.
5. While subject to parole supervision, Ms. Brown shall maintain a regular commitment to community service engagement by performing at least 50 hours of community service each year, which may include mentoring, speaking engagements, work with at-risk youth or other vulnerable citizens, or other volunteer participation that contributes positively to the community.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed at Nashville, Tennessee on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.

  
GOVERNOR

  
SECRETARY OF STATE

