



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor

Aug. 6, 2024

Therese Day and Eric Zuckerman
Counsel for Taberon Honie
Office of the Federal Public Defender
District of Arizona
Capital Habeas Unit
(801) 524-6043
eric_zuckerman@fd.org

Via email

Dear Ms. Day and Mr. Zuckerman,

I have received and considered your request for a temporary reprieve that you sent me on behalf of your client, Taberon Honie, on Aug. 1, 2024. After thorough review, I am denying your request for a temporary reprieve.

The Utah Constitution gives me the authority to grant reprieves for the vast majority of convictions. See Utah Const. art. VII, §12. Importantly, unlike some governors, I do not have the authority to grant clemency or commute sentences. I am only given the authority to grant temporary reprieves that last until review by the Board of Pardons and Parole, that would likely occur by the next business day. This is not an authority I take lightly. I have evaluated your concerns and other facts surrounding Mr. Honie's case prior to issuing my decision.

In making this decision, I am mindful of the fact that Mr. Honie has had every opportunity to challenge his sentence since it was imposed 25 years ago, in litigation and before the Board of Pardons and Parole. It is my understanding that Mr. Honie has exhausted his appeals before our state courts. He also had a commutation hearing before the Board of Pardons and Parole. The Board declined to commute his sentence.

I also must strongly disagree with how you have characterized the efforts of the Utah Department of Corrections in your request. The Department has gone above and beyond in

planning and preparing for Mr. Honie's execution. It is my understanding that the majority of concerns in your request were previously raised in court. In fact, in reviewing these concerns, the court found the Department has provided Mr. Honie with more than the law requires.

Ultimately, my review of your request indicates that a temporary reprieve is not warranted. Indeed, it is not clear to me that any benefit would come from delaying Mr. Honie's sentence further. I am thus denying your request for a reprieve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer J. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "C".

Spencer J. Cox
Governor