

Outgoing Governor, Matt Bevin, granted a full pardon to Patrick Baker on December 11, 2019. In doing so, then Governor Bevin substituted his judgment for the judgment of the Knox County Jury that convicted Patrick Baker of killing Donald Mills. This has done a disservice to the victim, the victim's family and the citizens of Knox County. Simply stated, it is wrong to favor the guilty and keep the innocent from getting justice.

As a Commonwealth Attorney, I have sworn a solemn oath to seek justice and ethically uphold the laws of this great Commonwealth for the people of Knox and Laurel Counties. To the best of my abilities, every effort was made to afford Mr. Baker the right to a fair trial under the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Kentucky. As recognized by the Supreme Court of Kentucky, Mr. Baker's right to a fair and impartial trial was preserved.

Contrary to Mr. Baker's claim of innocence, a jury of his peers found him guilty of killing Donald Mills. In reaching this conclusion, twelve (12) jurors reviewed the overwhelming evidence presented at trial, weighed the character and credibility of this evidence and ultimately concluded that Mr. Baker was guilty of killing Donald Mills.

The jury had the opportunity to look at all the evidence in this case and base their decision on all of it, not just one or two things as Mr. Baker would now like to use as proof of his innocence. The DNA testing that his attorneys claim exonerates him is either a lie or ignorance. The DNA was collected from a set of handcuffs. This was discussed and testified to extensively at trial and the DNA expert explained how the DNA could have been there from the assembly line when they were manufactured. During the trial, security video and a receipt, from Dollar General was introduced showing Mr. Baker purchasing the handcuffs the night of the murder. Mr. Wagoner was with Mr. Baker while he purchased these handcuffs and when he had the handcuffs with him as they entered the residence of Mr. Mills to rob him.

The multiple eyewitnesses that they talk about saying the killer had brown eyes and a specific tattoo is playing very loose with the facts in this case. The statement about a tattoo was only given by one of the three juveniles (a family friend that was staying the night) that was held hostage and by nobody else in the house. This juvenile was questioned many days after the events after several discussions around his family members speculation as to who had done this crime. The jury once again got to hear all this evidence and weigh it into their decision when they found Mr. Baker guilty.

The only person who said an individual had dark eyes was Donald Mills mother who ran to her son's house in the middle of the night when she became aware something was wrong. During the middle of the night in the pitch black after running several hundred feet she encountered two individuals leaving her sons house. A short and stocky man and a slim individual. In the dark of night, she said she saw the slim man's eyes and that they were brown. Mr. Wagner identified himself as the short stocky individual and Mr. Baker as the slim individual. Mr. Mill's mother was mistaken in her belief as to the eye color and the jury obviously understood why or how she could have mistaken an eye color in the dead of night.

The two troopers, Johnson and York, have been accused by the same law office in civil actions seeking money on several occasions. I learned early in my legal career that anyone can sue anyone until a judge, or a jury tells you that you are wrong.

Patrick Baker and his Defense team conveniently overlook the multiple other individuals who testified that Patrick Baker was in the house with Christopher Wagner when Donald Mills was shot and killed. As the sentencing judge, David Williams, has stated previously this was as strong a case as he has seen in his career. Despite a Knox County Jury thoughtfully reaching this conclusion, Governor Bevin disagreed and exercised his authority as Governor to pardon Patrick Baker. As the Commonwealth Attorney of Knox County, I disagree with then Governor Bevin's decision. The voice of Donald Mill's spilled blood is crying out from the ground because the justice done in this case has been undone.

Myself, the Kentucky State Police and specifically these officers invite any investigation into the criminal prosecution of Patrick Baker.

Jackie Steele  
Commonwealth Attorney  
27<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Knox & Laurel County