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February 15, 2013

Derrick D. Schofield
TDOC Commissioner
Rachel Jackson Building, Sixth Floor
320 Sixth Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37243-0465

RE: Jesse Ray Mathews
DOB: 05/10/1985
TOMIS ID: 00514571

Commissioner Schofield:

On November 30, 2012, Jesse Ray Mathews pled guilty in Hamilton County Criminal Court to the first-degree murder of Chattanooga Police Department Sgt. Tim Chapin and to three attempted first-degree murders of Chattanooga Police Department Officers David Ashley, Lorin Johnston and Mark Bender. His plea resulted in an agreed upon sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole with an additional twenty-five years running consecutively to the life without parole sentence. A pre-sentence investigation was not generated in this case since it was an agreed plea and sentence.

This week our office was notified via the local news media that Mr. Mathews had been classified and transferred to Northwest Correctional Complex in Tiptonville. His classification status is allegedly "medium." Such a classification if true is troubling. It seems imperative to provide some information about Mr. Mathews' murderous actions in Tennessee to aid in the classification evaluation. Attached to my letter please find a case synopsis prepared by now retired Chattanooga Police Department Assistant Chief Tim Carroll. In addition to Mr. Carroll's report, video evidence exists detailing the armed robbery Mr. Mathews performed at the US Money and Pawn as well as portions of the gun battle with police. We would be more than willing to share this information with your department. It should also be noted Mr. Mathews was on parole escape status from the State of Colorado when he murdered Sgt. Tim Chapin. He was on parole for an armed robbery.

In addition to the case background information, it should be noted the Hamilton County Jail housed Mr. Mathews until his transfer to your department's custody. On one particular occasion, it was reported to our office Mr. Mathews stated to officials he had inserted an ice pick in his rectum. Mr. Mathews further reported he was unable to remove the ice pick. This incident required Mr. Mathews to be transferred to a local hospital for a medical evaluation. An individual in custody would have no legitimate use for an ice pick other than to have a weapon to cause further physical harm to law enforcement officials. Such a weapon would aid in any potential escape plans. An ice pick was not located. However, it was very apparent these actions color his true intent to either feign a medical issue in hopes of going to a public hospital for an evaluation or arming himself with a deadly weapon while in custody. Under either scenario, the public and law enforcement officials are at grave risk.

I hope this letter and attachments provide some additional information in the classification analysis of Jesse Ray Mathews. We were not notified by your department of the need for any case background information prior to classification but feel its necessary to provide this information now. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neal Pinkston". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Neal Pinkston
Executive Assistant District Attorney