



# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## NEWS RELEASE

**CN-001**  
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**TRENTON, N.J. 08625**

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### *GOVERNOR ISSUES FIRST CLEMENCY REPORT*

In an effort to provide greater public disclosure of the state's clemency process, Governor Jim Florio has filed a report stating he issued no pardons or clemencies in 1992, the first such report issued by any New Jersey Governor.

The state's new Clemency Disclosure Law, signed by the Governor in January, requires an annual report to the Legislature by March 1, publicly disclosing any pardons or clemencies, a practice he established unilaterally last year. Governor Florio filed the report Monday.

"I've made it very clear since becoming Governor that clemency is such an extraordinary power I will only use it in the full light of day so that all those who have been touched and scarred by crime have their fair say," said Governor Florio. "The court of public opinion deserves to be heard when clemency or a pardon occurs. No issue affects our people more than how we deal with crime. For victims and their families, the need is even more profound."

Since taking office, Governor Florio has granted only one pardon (1991) and two commutations for illnesses (1990 and 1991). The Governor has said that he would make it very clear that except in the most extraordinary circumstances, the decisions of courts and juries should stand, putting the rights of victims first.

"The constitution of New Jersey gives me, as Governor, the authority to grant clemency or pardon to someone convicted of a crime in our state. Our constitution also says that victims have the right to be treated with fairness, compassion and respect," said the Governor. "The power of clemency and pardon have been granted to each governor of our state. But the power to judge our government belongs to every citizen of New Jersey. I'm here to say the law is on your side. We're working hard to make all our laws criminal proof -- no loopholes, no revolving door justice, no easy way out. That includes clemency and pardons."

A copy of the report is attached.

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
CN-001  
TRENTON  
08625

JIM FLORIO  
GOVERNOR

March 1, 1993

Honorable Donald T. DiFrancesco  
Senate President  
State House  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Honorable Garabed Haytaian  
Assembly Speaker  
State House  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Honorable John A. Lynch  
Senate Minority Leader  
State House  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Honorable Joseph V. Doria, Jr.  
Assembly Minority Leader  
State House  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: Annual Report on Reprieves, Pardons and Commutations granted during the period January 1, 1992 to February 28, 1993.

Dear Senate President DiFrancesco, Senator Lynch, Speaker Haytaian and Assemblyman Doria:

L. 1993, c. 26 provides that

On or before March 1 of each year, the Governor shall report to the Legislature each reprieve, pardon and commutation granted, stating the name of the convicted person, the crime for which the person was convicted, the sentence imposed, its date, the date of the pardon, reprieve or commutation and the reasons for granting same.

In accordance with the provisions of L. 1993, c. 26, please be advised that, for the period January 1, 1992 to February 28, 1993, no reprieves, pardons or commutations were granted by me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Florio".

JIM FLORIO  
Governor