

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

MARGRET NEDELKOFF KELLEMS
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

September 7, 2001

Mr. David A. Guard
Project Manager
1225 Eye Street, NW Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005-3914

Dear Mr. Guard:

This letter is to respond to your requests for information regarding the District of Columbia's law governing clemency and or commutations of sentence.

According to the District of Columbia Official Code § 1-307.6, the Mayor has pardon and respite authority in District of Columbia cases. Although the legislative history substantiates this, the Department of Justice interprets this power as a limited one that pertains to the violation of municipal ordinances. The Department of Justice has arrived at this interpretation because of its jurisdiction to prosecute the majority of the criminal cases occurring in the District of Columbia. Additionally, felons who seek pardons do so through the Department of Justice Office of the Pardon Attorney.

I hope this information is helpful to do in your research. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 727-4036.

Sincerely,

Margret Nedelkoff Kellems, Esq.
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice