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JOSEPH R. LENTOL
Assemblyman 50th District
Kings County

June 9, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, DC 20500

Re: Sholam Weiss

Dear Mr. President:

I request that you consider and commute Sholam Weiss's sentence to time served. Mr. Weiss was convicted on November 1, 1999 in the United States District Court at the Middle District of Florida. Mr. Weiss received one of two highest sentences ever imposed by a judge for a white-collar crime – the other case was also by the same judge. Shalom Weiss got 845 years and Keith Pound received 740 years and he has deceased in 2003.

Mr. Weiss's sentence would be significantly shorter – by centuries – if he had been sentenced under today's guidelines. The sentencing guidelines has been amended a few times since Mr. Weiss's incarceration, it was amended in 2001, 2003 and again in 2015. Those amendments were not applied in Mr. Weiss's case due to the amendments not being retroactively applied. The changes in sentencing guidelines are so significant in contrast to the old one. The new guideline range for the same criminal offence and circumstances would give Mr. Weiss 30-37 months in prison term vs. 845 years (10140 months).

Mr. Weiss has been imprisoned at 5 times the sentence of the current guideline range. All restitution imposed on Mr. Weiss by the courts has been fully satisfied. Mr. Weiss has demonstrated exceptionally good conduct throughout his incarceration and he has been a model inmate, serving as a Rabbi to other Jewish inmates for the past 15 years, teaching the culture and background of the Jewish religion, and providing spiritual guidance and uplifting where needed. He has devoted himself to rehabilitative and religious activities while incarcerated - focusing on improving himself and always helping others as well.

Mr. Weiss behavior throughout his lengthy incarceration has demonstrated a retributive and rehabilitative perspective, the objectives and purposes of his incarceration.

Mr. Weiss is 66 years old, a father of five and has 33 grandchildren and two great grandchildren who are all eager to see him come home. Mr. Weiss's health has deteriorated in prison, with colon cancer, heart surgeries, and other ailments. I fully support a commutation for Mr. Weiss and hope that Mr. Weiss will soon be reunited with his family.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Lentol