While Teresa Benitez-Thompson Was Chief Of Staff To Attorney General Aaron Ford, Their Office Supported Clemency For Seven Convicted Killers, Including A Man Who Kidnapped A 16-Year Old And Shot Him In The Back Of The Head In The Nevada Desert.

Theresa Benitez-Thompson Served As Chief Of Staff To Aaron Ford From December 2022 To March 2026

In December 2022, Benitez-Thompson Was Named Ford's Chief Of Staff. "Former Nevada assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson has been named attorney general Aaron Ford's chief of staff." ("Former Nevada Lawmaker Tapped To Become Attorney General's Chief Of Staff," My News 4, 12/1/22)

Benitez-Thompson Left Ford's Office In March 2026. "NEW: Teresa Benitez Thompson (D) has left her job as @AaronDFordNV 's chief of staff, citing her commitment to #NV02. Her last day working for the AG was Tuesday and she filed to run on Wednesday. 'There were just not enough hours in the day to do both things,' she told me." (@MiniRacker, X, 3/16/26)

In 2025, Ford Supported A Commutation For Michael Cu Who Was Found To Have, "Kidnapped A 16-Year-Old In 1996, Forced Him To Drive Out To The Desert, Then Killed Him Execution-Style," Shooting Him In The Head

"Ford … Supported A Convicted Kidnapper And Murderer Eligible For Parole When Lombardo Voted Against Him. Michael Cu, The Convict In Question, Kidnapped A 16-Year-Old In 1996, Forced Him To Drive Out To The Desert, Then Killed Him Execution-Style," Shooting Him In The Head. "Ford, for example, supported a convicted kidnapper and murderer eligible for parole when Lombardo voted against him. Michael Cu, the convict in question, kidnapped a 16-year-old in 1996, forced him to drive out to the desert, then killed him execution-style — all to steal the rims off his car. The victim was shot seven times with a rifle, with the fatal shot being fired at nearly point-blank range into his head. 'Mr. Judge I would like to tell you these people, I don't want them to be free," the deceased's mother pleaded with the judge at Cu's sentencing in March 2000. 'There's a lot of people outside, a lot of mothers outside … I'm afraid because I have more children.' Cu could eventually make it back onto the streets after the board commuted his sentence, making him eligible for parole in 2035 — though his release would still require approval from the state's parole board." (Robert Schmad And Andrew Mark Miller, "'Thrill Killer' And Desert Executioner — Meet The Dozens Of Criminals Dem AG Backed For Parole: 'No Brainer'," Fox News, 10/9/26)

- **Cu's Sentence Was Commuted At A December 16, 2025 Board Of Pardons Meeting.** (Meeting Results, Board Of Pardons, 12/17/25)

December 17, 2025

To: Interested Persons

From: Alena Thurston, Executive Secretary

RE: Results of Pardons Board meeting held on December 16, 2025

III.

a.	**Michael Gravely, NDOC #15768-** Commute All Sentences to Time Served. Immediate Release to the Community
b.	**Michael Cu, NDOC #65001-** Commute to Aggregated Term of 14 years to Life with Parole with parole eligibility in 2035.
c.	**Alquandre Turner, NDOC# 91743-** Denied Clemency
d.	**Avery Church, NDOC# 91103-** Deny Clemency

(Meeting Results, Board Of Pardons, 12/17/25)

In 2025, Ford Reportedly Supported Clemency For Three Killers: Bobby Thomas, Michael Amati, And Arlander Givens

In 2025, Ford Reportedly Sponsored A Hearing And Supported Parole For A Murderer, Bobby Thomas. "He called his decision to grant parole eligibility to an individual who stabbed a 17-year-old to death a "no-brainer" in September 2025. Ford sponsored the hearing where witnesses spoke to the character of the murderer, Bobby Thomas." (Robert Schmad And Andrew Mark Miller, "'Thrill Killer' And Desert Executioner — Meet The Dozens Of Criminals Dem AG Backed For Parole: 'No Brainer'," Fox News, 10/9/26)

In 2025, Ford Reportedly Supported A Commutation For Convicted Murderer Michael Amati. "Ford also supported a commutation for Anthony Amati, whom police and prosecutors described as a 'thrill killer,' in a June 2025 decision that allowed the convicted murderer to become immediately eligible for parole. Amati was convicted of ambushing a 22-year-old Pizza Hut worker as he walked a co-worker home. The co-worker, who was at the trial, testified that Amati and his friends 'cackled … laughed like it was a big joke' and jumped around while firing multiple bullets into the victim. Deputy District Attorney Christopher Lalli argued at the time that Amati should never be eligible to walk free because his crime was a "thrill killing … for the mere pleasure of it.' Amati became immediately eligible for parole following the board's decision, although his release was not guaranteed." (Robert Schmad And Andrew Mark Miller, "'Thrill Killer' And Desert Executioner — Meet The Dozens Of Criminals Dem AG Backed For Parole: 'No Brainer'," Fox News, 10/9/26)

Ford Reportedly "Supported Clemency For Arlander Givens, Who Beat His Victim To Death With A Cinder Block And Was Sentenced To Two Consecutive Life Terms." "Ford also supported clemency for Arlander Givens, who beat his victim to death with a cinder block and was sentenced to two consecutive life terms, but the board ultimately denied his application, Fox News Digital found." (Robert Schmad And Andrew Mark Miller, "'Thrill Killer' And Desert Executioner — Meet The Dozens Of Criminals Dem AG Backed For Parole: 'No Brainer'," Fox News, 10/9/26)

- **Givens' Clemency Was Considered By The Board Of Pardons In December 2025.** (Meeting Results, Board Of Pardons, 12/17/25)

December 17, 2025

To: Interested Persons

From: Alena Thurston, Executive Secretary

RE: Results of Pardons Board meeting held on December 16, 2025

III.

a.	**Michael Gravely, NDOC #15768-** Commute All Sentences to Time Served. Immediate Release to the Community
b.	**Michael Cu, NDOC #65001-** Commute to Aggregated Term of 14 years to Life with Parole with parole eligibility in 2035.
c.	**Alquandre Turner, NDOC# 91743-** Denied Clemency
d.	**Avery Church, NDOC# 91103-** Deny Clemency

IV.

aa.	**Dale Haughton Samuda-** Grant Unconditional Pardon
bb.	**Steven Wayne Brewster-** Moved to March 17, 2026 Pardons Agenda
cc.	**Carl Jay Elliott-** Grant Conditional Pardon
dd.	**Ronnie Lamar Brown-** Grant Unconditional Pardon
ee.	**Arlander Givens-** Denied Clemency

(Meeting Results, Board Of Pardons, 12/17/25)

On March 4, 2025, Ford Voted To Grant Immediate Parole Eligibility To Murderer Alberto Guerrero

On March 4, 2025, The Board Of Pardons Considered Action On Alberto Guerrero Who Was Convicted Of 1st Degree Murder. (Meeting Notice And Agenda, Board Of Pardons, 3/4/25)

III.		For possible action is a discussion that may include but is not limited to a commutation of the sentence(s) of the following Nevada Department of Corrections inmates, a denial of the request or no action may be taken on the following inmate applicants with said item possibly taken out of order, combined for consideration by the Board and/or pulled or removed from the agenda at any time.
	a.	**David Phillips, NDOC #74167**-Washoe County Murder and Use of Deadly Weapon Enhancement in 2002
	b.	**Alberto Guerrero, NDOC #57161**-Clark County Murder 1st Degree, Embezzlement of a Vehicle, Conspiracy to Commit Murder, and Use of Deadly Weapon Enhancement.

(Meeting Notice And Agenda, Board Of Pardons, 3/4/25)

At 1:50:48 In The December 13, 2023 Meeting, On A Motion To Grant Immediate Parole Eligibility, Ford Voted Yes. (Meeting Audio, Board Of Pardons, 3/4/25; 1:49:00-1:51:00)

On December 16, 2025, Ford Voted To Commute Murderer Michael Gravely's Sentence

On December 16, 2025, The Board Of Pardons Considered Action On Michael Gravely Who Was Incarcerated For Murder. (Meeting Notice And Agenda, Board Of Pardons, 12/16/25)

III.		For possible action is a discussion that may include but is not limited to a commutation of the sentence(s) of the following Nevada Department of Corrections inmates, a denial of the request or no action may be taken on the following inmate applicants with said item possibly taken out of order, combined for consideration by the Board and/or pulled or removed from the agenda at any time.
	a.	**Michael Gravely NDOC #15768-** Clark County Murder 1st Degree with Use of Deadly Weapon in 1983

(Meeting Notice And Agenda, Board Of Pardons, 12/16/25)

At 1:05:34 In The December 16, 2025 Meeting, On A Motion To Commute Gravely's Sentence To Time Served And Release Him, Ford Voted Yes. (Meeting Audio, Board Of Pardons, 12/16/25; 1:04:00-1:06:00)

<u>On December 16, 2025, Ford Voted To Commute Murderer Frank Timothy Block's Sentence</u>

On December 16, 2025, The Board Of Pardons Considered Action In The Case Of Frank Timothy Blocks Who Was Incarcerated For Murder. (Meeting Notice And Agenda, Board Of Pardons, 12/16/25)

	Domestic Battery 1st in 2020
kk.	**Frank Timothy Blocks-** Clark County First Degree Murder in 1993 and Misdemeanor Battery Domestic Violence unknown date

(Meeting Notice And Agenda, Board Of Pardons, 12/16/25)

At 6:08:14 In The December 16, 2025 Meeting, On A Motion To Commute Gravely's Sentence To Time Served And Release Him, Ford Voted Yes. (Meeting Audio, Board Of Pardons, 12/16/25; 1:04:00-1:06:00)