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December 9, 2005

The Honorable Sherri Bevan Walsh
Summit County Prosecutor's Office
53 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Akron, Ohio 44308

Dear Prosecutor Walsh:

As my office has recently made you aware, the recent testing of Earl Mann's CODIS sample confirms to a high degree of probability that Mann's DNA was found on the vaginal swab of the murder victim and the pink panties worn by the child sexual assault victim. As I have maintained throughout these proceedings, only the perpetrator could have left his DNA on these distinct pieces of evidence. Therefore, the DNA evidence strongly suggests that Clarence Elkins was not the perpetrator of these heinous acts.

As the Christmas season approaches, I believe that Mr. Elkins, who most likely is an innocent man, should be free to spend the holiday with his family. Accordingly, I would urge you to favorably consider any request by Mr. Elkins to be remanded to the custody of Summit County and freed on bond while the post-conviction proceedings are pending.

Warmest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Petro", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jim Petro