


THE STATE OF



TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

COMMUTATION

TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, in July of 2003, in the Criminal Court for Sevier County, Tennessee, Michelle Lockwood-Tipton (TOMIS # 00364813) was convicted of one count of first-degree murder (case no. 8733); and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's constitution and statutory law authorize the governor to grant executive clemency, including the power to commute sentences; and

WHEREAS, this case appears to me to be a proper one for the exercise of executive clemency for the following reasons:

Ms. Lockwood-Tipton was 21 years old and had no criminal record when, under the influence of her then-boyfriend, she agreed to commit robbery. During that robbery, her boyfriend killed the victim. Since entering prison over 20 years ago, Ms. Lockwood-Tipton has completed numerous development courses, and she has held multiple institutional jobs. She is a trained paralegal who has earned her bachelor's degree and is currently pursuing her master's degree through Lipscomb University. Ms. Lockwood-Tipton serves on the Inmate Council and Grievance Board. She is active in mentoring other inmates. She is involved in training support dogs. Ms. Lockwood-Tipton is surrounded by the support of her family, friends, faith community, and others. The Board of Parole recommended granting Ms. Lockwood-Tipton a commutation.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 6 of the Tennessee Constitution and by the laws of the State of Tennessee, do hereby commute the sentence imposed upon Michelle Lockwood-Tipton for her conviction of one count of first-degree murder to make her eligible for parole consideration by the Tennessee Board of Parole after she has served twenty-five (25) calendar years without applying any sentence reduction credits. Ms. Lockwood-Tipton shall live the life of a good citizen and shall not violate any of the laws of the United States; the State of Tennessee, or any other state and shall not be guilty of conduct which is illegal or improper in the opinion of the governor.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed at Nashville, Tennessee on this 15th day of December, 2023.



GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE

