

Extradition Office



Jesse W. Meadows, III, Attorney at Law
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P. O. Drawer 610
Chatham, Virginia 24531



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November 14, 2005

Jesse W. Meadows, III, Attorney at Law
9 Payne Street
P. O. Drawer 610
Chatham, Virginia 24531

Re: Commonwealth of Virginia v. Orlando Pelzer
Commonwealth of Virginia v. Laron Pelzer

Dear Mr. Meadows:

Per your request and inquiry, I will summarize the involvement of this office in the above matter. The request for extradition packages for Orlando and Laron were received by this office on November 17, 2003. The letters requesting their extradition were dated November 13, 2003, and stated that they were in the custody of the police authorities in Calhoun County. Upon checking with the Regional Detention Center in Orangeburg County, it determined that they had been released on November 5, 2003, on a \$10,000 P.R. bond for each.

Notice was sent to Orlando and Laron of an Attorney General's hearing to be conducted on December 5, 2003, to consider Virginia's request for extradition. They and their mother were present. At the hearing, they stated that they had been incarcerated in Virginia, but the charges had been "dropped" on both subjects in March of 2003. The Attorney General's Office contacted the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office for Pittsylvania County for clarification. In a letter to Ms. Rita O'Neal of the S. C. Attorney General's Office, Ms. Brenda White, Administrative Assistant to the Commonwealth's Attorney advised that the charges had been nolle prossed on March 25, 2003, but Orlando and Laron had been re-indicted on August 18, 2003, on the charges of robbery, use of a firearm in the commission of malicious wounding, and malicious wounding.

I advised the Pelzers that they would be given the opportunity to resolve this in Virginia prior to a Governor's warrant being issued for their return. They stated they would retain Counsel in Virginia to surrender to the local authorities. Orlando informed me that they would be in Virginia on the 15th or 16th of January 2004, to turn themselves in to Mr. Grimes and attempt to resolve this matter. On January 16, 2004, a fax was received from the office of Gregory T. Casker, Attorney at Law, 9 Payne Street, Chatham, Virginia, that stated "Re: Laron Pelzer, Orlando Pelzer, Sally Pelzer (mother): This is to confirm that both gentlemen are in Mr. Casker's office this date@1:28 p.m. and attempted to see Mr. Grimes, Mr. Casker, and Mr. Davey, none of whom are working today and probably not Monday (1-16-04), due to a long holiday."

I spoke with Mr. Brian Haskins of the Office of Commonwealth's Attorney on March 1, 2004. Mr. Haskins indicated that they would coordinate with Mr. John Davey the appearance of the Pelzers in Virginia for arraignment and bond hearing. I advised him that there had been no difficulty on this end in maintaining contact with the Pelzers and we appreciated allowing them to return voluntarily to Virginia to resolve this matter. Further, if there was a problem with their appearance, that we would take the necessary steps to have them returned to Virginia.

It is my understanding that they did return to Virginia on May 12, 2004, and received a bond of \$2,500.00 on these charges. I was faxed a copy of their bonds and our file was closed. I trust this addresses your request. With warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Robert E. Merritt
Extraditions Counsel