



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

JRTC, 100 W. RANDOLPH, SUITE 16-100  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

**BRUCE RAUNER**  
GOVERNOR

January 19, 2018

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
**Mr. John Clough**  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Charleston, IL 67920

Re: Allegations Against John Clough, Member of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board

Dear Mr. Clough:

Please be advised that the Governor's Office has received substantiated allegations regarding your conduct that show an inability to continue to serve on the Illinois Prisoner Review Board.

First, the Governor's Office has received substantiated allegations that during your employment in the Coles County Sheriff's Office, you used a racial slur when referring to an African-American. According to recently-received records, the allegation was investigated by the Coles County Sheriff and it was determined that you did, in fact, use that word in discussion with witnesses.

The substantiated allegation related to the use of a racial slur is extremely troubling for many reasons. Specifically, nearly half of the Corrections population in Illinois is African-American. As part of your duties, you routinely meet alone with inmates who seek parole and later present their cases at en banc hearings, whose parole has been revoked to determine appropriate sanctions, and about determinations of good conduct credit restoration. Further, you review and present clemency and commutation petitions for the board's consideration. These duties are critical to the justice system, and any implication of bias questions the integrity of the board and its decisions. Despite the seriousness of this allegation and the implication of bias that it raises, you did not advise this Office of the allegation prior to your appointment or at any time thereafter.

Additionally, the Governor's Office has been made aware of two allegations related to ethics issues. The Governor's Office received allegations that you delivered petitions for political office to the Coles County Courthouse and used your state vehicle to transport you there. On your statement of economic interest, you were asked to list if you had been a government employee in the prior year. You stated "N/A" even though you were employed by the Coles County Sheriff's Office, and you signed the verification that the statement was true, correct, and complete.

The Prisoner Review Board statute states “[a]ny member may be removed by the Governor for incompetence, neglect of duty, malfeasance or inability to serve.” 730 ILCS 5/3-3-1 (c).

Your use of a racial slur, paired with the other two allegations leveled against you, have led us to determine that you have shown an inability to serve on the board.

Therefore, your employment at PRB is terminated effective immediately and you will be paid through the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lise T. Spacapan". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Lise T. Spacapan  
General Counsel  
Office of the Governor