

April 2, 2018

To the Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, Third Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Northam,

In 2017, the investigators working on behalf of Jens Soering asked me to review their investigative results in an effort to develop any additional leads, which may assist in vindicating Soering and/or identifying the person or persons responsible for murdering Dereck and Nancy Haysom.

With an extensive law enforcement and investigative background spanning 45 years, I pursued this request with prudence. During my law enforcement career with the FBI, I've investigated many serious crimes. There were four murder cases that are especially memorable to me. In each case the suspect confessed and was subsequently convicted. Two of the four received the death penalty, both of which were commuted to a life sentence years later. These cases instilled in me a dutiful awareness of the enormous responsibility and integrity investigators must exhibit in order to conduct a thorough, complete, and detailed investigation, devoid of influence from public pressure and personal opinion.

As the lead investigator in the Michael Hash (Culpeper 2012) exoneration case on behalf of the Innocence Project, I encountered uncooperative investigators from the original investigation, who were resistant to discuss the possibility that a miscarriage of justice may have occurred in their investigation. This resistance was amplified with the passage of time and concurrently with the advancement of their careers.

I respect the integrity of the established rule of law. As a result, I carefully weigh the known information and pursue discovering the truth of what yet must be resolved in order to provide a responsible, thorough, and complete investigation with the highest integrity.

The Derek and Nancy Haysom case was a complicated investigation involving two principals: Elizabeth Haysom and Jens Soering. Each one provided contradictory statements regarding who was physically responsible for committing the 1985 murders. The State eventually chose to believe Haysom and charged Soering as the person who traveled alone to Bedford County for the purpose of murdering Derek and Nancy Haysom.

This murder was a high-profile crime and received extensive media coverage. Over the course of more than 30 years, books have been published, a