

logo not found or type unknown

"I Am Not a Career Criminal": Calvert White Pleads for Leniency as Family, Judge, and Partner Urge Reduced Sentence

Letters submitted to the sentencing judge include pleas from White's longtime partner Mia Felix, former Presiding Judge Emeritus Verne Hodge, and Neighborhood Pharmacy owner Kisha Christian, all urging the court to consider leniency over lengthy sentence.

Legal / **Published On January 16, 2026 10:42 AM /**

Janeke Simon **January 16, 2026**

Image not found or type unknown



Calvert White. By. V.I. LEGISLATURE.

Along with the legal arguments as to why former Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Calvert White should [only spend around two years in jail](#) rather than the 12 prosecutors are seeking, a raft of letters have been written to sentencing judge Mark Kearney

pleading for leniency.

“I am not a career criminal,” wrote Mr. White in his letter, dated August 11 2025, weeks after his [conviction on fraud and bribery charges](#). He described his longstanding community service – as Little League coach, behavioral counselor with The Village, and mentorship of youth in conflict with the law. “I have made a mistake, one that I deeply regret, but I am still someone who believes in service, accountability, and growth,” Mr. White told Judge Kearney. “I respectfully ask for your leniency in sentencing, not only because of the man I have been, but because of the man I still strive to be.”

The 27-page packet of letters and photos also included missives from Mr. White's parents, Barbara Holder and Celestino White. Ms. Holder, a retired law enforcement officer, says that her son is “broken, he's ashamed, he made a mistake for which he's suffering for ever since.” Former senator Celestino White Sr. echoed those words regarding his son. After speaking about Mr. White's remorse, he continued by asking the judge to consider a sentence of home confinement, or “the extreme minimum sentence possible” at the “most extreme minimum-security facility.”

Mr. White's three siblings also appealed to Judge Kearney for consideration and leniency, as did one of his three children. The packet of letters also included missives from his professional contacts, including current Little League President Neville Amey, former colleague Derek Heyliger, and Jennifer Ashby, the creator of USVI Paradise Jam. All the letters highlighted Mr. White's decades of work in community-building activities and his commitment to youth development. For those qualities, they appealed to the court “to extend both grace and mercy,” as Ms. Ashby put it.

Mr. White's long-time partner Mia Felix also wrote on his behalf, telling the sentencing judge that Mr. White is “not a danger to society,” but rather is “someone who can absolutely be rehabilitated and who still has so much more to give to his family and his community. Alongside Ms. Felix's plea were similar letters from her grandfather Verne Hodge, current Presiding Judge Emeritus of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands. Mr. Hodge, like Celestino White Sr., urged Judge Kearney to “consider the lightest sentence possible.” He urged the court to “view Mr. White in the context of his life's work” and referenced his decades of experience on the bench to advise his judicial colleague that “justice is not only about punishment, it is about balance, fairness, and the belief that people can grow from their mistakes.”

“Mr. White has earned that chance,” argued the long-serving jurist. Other letters in support of Mr. White came from Hugo Hodge Jr., former Assistant Police Commissioner Raymond Hyndman, and Kisha Christian, the owner of Neighborhood Pharmacy.