



**City Manager's Office  
Human Rights Program**

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To Whom It May Concern:

Whereas all citizens of our city are deserving of equal treatment before the law, it is within the scope of the Human Rights Commission to review any possible discrimination against individuals, based on their political affiliation, source of income, or other significant factor, when an issue has been brought before us. Eugene is working toward a tradition of tolerance. During these difficult times, we must work diligently to ensure that the basic civil rights of all of our fellow citizens are equally protected and upheld.

Jeffrey "Free" Luers admits to having committed a property crime within the city limits for political reasons. He was duly prosecuted and sentenced. We found that similar crimes have not been met with such harsh sentences, and we are concerned about the length of Mr. Luers' sentence. In researching other cases of arson in Lane County, where homes and churches have been damaged, the sentencing has been less severe than that applied to Mr. Luers, in many cases ranging from 50 months to 96 months. Even many people convicted of violent personal crimes have received significantly less time than 23 years.

Although we recognize that we are only a symbolic entity, we are charged to function as a "conscience" in the arena of human rights. This being the case, we therefore urge Mr. Luers to use his appeal process in the hope that a review of his sentence will lead to a reduction in time served and with the expectation that the length of his sentence would not be based on his political beliefs.

Any questions or comments may be forwarded to Sara Rich, Human Rights Commissioner, at 682-5177.

Signed,

James Dean, Chair  
On behalf of the Human Rights Commission

