

March 30, 2012

Senator Jean-Paul Morrell
Louisiana Senate
sent via e-mail to:
morrelljp@legis.la.gov

Dear Senator Morrell,

We believe that in cases where a person is arrested for a violent crime, and the record shows that perpetrators in such cases, in general, are violent individuals that put others at risk of injury or death when left at large, then that person's liberty needs to be controlled while the case against him is pending. Certainly, that means that the court should not afford that person the privilege of being released under his own recognizance.

Therefore, we are strongly in favor of the bill you have authored to address this consideration: SB 329.

Regarding including aggravated cruelty to animals: R.S. 14:102.1(B) as one of the serious felonies that SB 329 pertains to:

Perpetrators of this crime, which includes the malicious torture, maiming or mutilation of a living being are individuals that do need to be dealt with as being dangerous, not only to animals, but the record shows are typically violent in general. It is commonly pointed out in support of aggravated cruelty laws, and it is useful to also point it out with regard to SB 329, that every one of the high profile serial killers since the 1960's were tortures of animals at an early age. Also, as in the McMartin case, where animals were tortured in front of the children that the McMartin's were abusing, individuals who molest young children typically torture and kill animals in order to intimidate the children and keep them from telling anyone about the abuse. They tell the children the same thing can happen to them, their friends, siblings, or parents. It can be, in cases like this, that there is sufficient evidence to hold the perpetrator on the cruelty to animals charge, but enough evidence has not been amassed to fully substantiate the charge of sexual abuse or cruelty pertaining to the human victims.

Please feel free to use this letter in any way you like in support of SB 329.

Respectfully,

Pinckney A. Wood
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