

**NEWS/OPINION:**

# **DOJ Drops Action in Prison Riot Murder Case**

**JUNE 14, 2019** -- On Wednesday, the Delaware Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a [statement](#) that it was dropping any pending action in the murder of Lieutenant Steven Floyd.



Lt. Floyd, a correctional officer at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center near Smyrna, was killed by inmates of Building C during a riot and hostage-taking incident on February 1-2, 2017.

In a prepared statement, the DOJ cited the lack of physical, video, and audio evidence and the difficulty of prosecuting cases using only the statements of more than a hundred inmates, who were both suspects and witnesses. "From the outset, it was always going to be one of the hardest cases for the Delaware State Police to investigate and for the Department of Justice to prove," the statement noted.

Of the 16 inmates charged with murder, only one was convicted of homicide.

**Multiple members of the House Republican Caucus responded to the decision of State Attorney General Kathy Jennings with the following statement:**

*"We are extremely disappointed in the attorney general's decision not to pursue further justice in the February 2017 prison riot at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center in which Lieutenant Steve Floyd was brutally killed by inmates.*

*It's a sad state of affairs when criminals prevail. It's terribly unfortunate that the inmates responsible will not be held accountable, ultimately allowing the system to fail the victims and their families.*

*In addition to the message being sent to the family of Lt. Floyd, what is the state saying about the value being placed on the lives of the many correctional officers still on the job who are trying to keep the public safe from some of the worst offenders that Delaware imprisons?*

*We understand the challenges the Department of Justice faced, but when a horrific incident like this happens behind our prison walls we cannot stop seeking justice. Otherwise, the criminals win.*

*This was heartbreaking and certainly not a proud day for Delaware."*

**State Representatives:**

**Kevin Hensley, R-Townsend, Odessa, Port Penn**

**Lyndon Yearick, R-Camden-Wyoming**

**Jeff Spiegelman, R-Clayton**

**Mike Ramone, R-Pike Creek**

**Shannon Morris, R-Harrington**

**Danny Short, R-Seaford**