

APPENDIX

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Third District Court of Appeal

State of Florida

Opinion filed March 15, 2017.
Not final until disposition of timely filed motion for rehearing.

No. 3D16-1090
Lower Tribunal No. 79-5376

Joseph Carter,
Appellant,

vs.

The State of Florida,
Appellee.

An Appeal from the Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County, Lisa Walsh,
Judge.

Carlos J. Martinez, Public Defender, and Jonathan Greenberg, Assistant
Public Defender, for appellant.

Pamela Jo Bondi, Attorney General, and Linda S. Katz, Assistant Attorney
General, for appellee.

Before FERNANDEZ, LOGUE, and SCALES, JJ.

LOGUE, J.

The defendant, Joseph Carter, seeks review of the trial court's denial of his 3.850 motion for postconviction relief challenging the constitutionality of his aggregate sentence of 152 years in prison, with parole. We reverse.

In 1979, the defendant, who was a minor at the time, was found guilty of burglary and sexual battery and was sentenced to a total of 152 years for both counts, with parole.¹ In 1982, he was given a presumptive parole release date (PPRD) of March 25, 1993. The PPRD was pushed back, however, due to various disciplinary reports. From 2007 forward, the defendant did not have any disciplinary reports and in 2007, his PPRD was set for March 2016.

In December 2015, the defendant was interviewed by a parole commission investigator regarding the possibility of parole. The investigator recommended parole. However, in April 2016, the parole commission denied parole and provided that the defendant "will be Reinterviewed for [his] Extraordinary Interview during the month of October, 2022."

The defendant argued in his postconviction motion that the aggregate sentence of 152 years was a de facto life sentence of a minor and therefore unconstitutional under Graham v. Florida, 560 U.S. 48 (2010) and Henry v. State, 175 So. 3d 675 (Fla. 2015). His sentence was unconstitutional, he contended, because his parole

¹ The defendant was sentenced to 137 years for the burglary count and 15 years for the sexual battery count. The conviction and sentence were affirmed on direct appeal in Carter v. State, 410 So. 2d 552 (Fla. 3d DCA 1982).

eligibility was not a meaningful opportunity for release. The defendant sought resentencing under sections 775.082(3)(c) and 921.1401, Florida Statutes (2014). The trial court denied his motion and this appeal followed.

Notwithstanding the fact that he will be reevaluated for the possibility of parole in 2022, we conclude the defendant is correct and that he is entitled to resentencing under sections 775.082(3)(c) and 921.1401. See Atwell v. State, 197 So. 3d 1040, 1048 (Fla. 2016) (“In most respects, a sentence of life with the possibility of parole for first-degree murder, based on the way Florida’s parole process operates under the existing statutory scheme, actually resembles a mandatorily imposed life sentence without parole that is not ‘proportionate to the offense and the offender.’” (quoting Horsley v. State, 160 So. 3d 393, 406 (Fla. 2015))); Henry v. State, 175 So. 3d 675, 680 (Fla. 2015), cert. denied, 136 S. Ct. 1455 (2016) (“Because we have determined that [the defendant’s] sentence is unconstitutional under Graham, we conclude that [the defendant] should be resentenced in light of the new juvenile sentencing legislation enacted by the Florida Legislature in 2014, ch.2014–220, Laws of Fla.”); Miller v. State, 42 Fla. L. Weekly D51 at *1 n.1 (Fla. 3d DCA Jan. 25, 2017) (“The State’s contention that [the defendant] was parole-eligible as early as twelve years after the commission of first-degree murder is irrelevant.”).

We therefore reverse the defendant's aggregate 152-year sentence for burglary and sexual battery and remand to the trial court for the appropriate resentencing under section 775.082(3)(c), Florida Statutes and section 921.1401, Florida Statutes.

Reversed and remanded with instructions.

Supreme Court of Florida

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019

CASE NO.: SC17-768

Lower Tribunal No(s).:

3D16-1090; 131979CF0053760001XX

STATE OF FLORIDA

vs. JOSEPH CARTER

Petitioner(s)

Respondent(s)

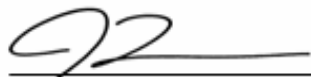
Upon review of the responses to this Court's Order to Show Cause dated December 4, 2018, the Court has determined that it should accept jurisdiction in this case. It is ordered that the Petition for Review is granted, that the Third District Court of Appeal's decision in this case is quashed, and this matter is remanded to the district court for reconsideration upon application of our decision in *Franklin v. State*, 43 Fla. L. Weekly S556 (Fla. Nov. 8, 2018).

No Motion for Rehearing will be entertained by the Court.

CANADY, C.J., and LEWIS, POLSTON, LABARGA, and LAWSON, JJ., concur.
PARIENTE and QUINCE, JJ., dissent.

A True Copy

Test:



John A. Tomasino

Clerk, Supreme Court



lc

Served:

JONATHAN GREENBERG

LINDA S. KATZ

HON. LISA SHARON WALSH, JUDGE

HON. MARY CAY BLANKS, CLERK

HON. HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK