

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, December 17, 2015

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Legislative Office Building, Room 1C

300 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT

Minutes

Members Present: John Santa, Patrick L. Carroll, Robert J. Devlin., Jr., Vivien K. Blackford, Gary A. Roberge (on behalf of Stephen Grant), Kevin Kane, Maureen Price-Boreland, Natasha Pierre, Scott Semple, Gary White, Arielle Reich (on behalf of Dora Schriro), Thomas Kulhawik, Susan O. Storey, Thomas J. Ullmann, Carleton Giles, Mark A. Palmer, Robert Farr, David Shepack, Dr. Michael Norko (on behalf of Miriam Delphin-Rittmon).

Members Absent: Mike Lawlor, William R. Dyson, Tracey L. Meares, and David M. Borden (Chair).

Staff: Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Andrew Clark, and Leland J. Moore.

Guests: Jeremy Travis.

I. MEETING CONVENED

Judge Carroll called the meeting to order at approximately 3:39 p.m.

II. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Judge Carroll reported that Michael Lawlor has resigned from the office of vice chair and, therefore, a vacancy exists. Judge Carroll called for nominations for the office of vice chair from the floor. Kevin Kane nominated John Santa. Susan Storey seconded the nomination. Mr. Santa with elected by a voice vote of 19 in favor and 0 opposed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Robert Farr moved to approve the minutes from the September 17th meeting. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WELCOME

Vice Chair Santa welcomed Alex Tsarkov to the Sentencing Commission. Mr. Tsarkov was appointed Executive Director by Commission Chair David M.

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Borden in November after a competitive search process. Mr. Tsarkov serves as the first full-time executive director in the Commission's history.

V. **GUEST SPEAKER—PRESIDENT JEREMY TRAVIS, JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Scott Semple introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Jeremy Travis, President of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. President Travis presented on the 2014 National Academy of Sciences report entitled "The Growth of Incarceration in the United States."

VI. **RESOLUTIONS:**

A. **Resolution Regarding a Study of Bail (R:2015-06)**

Vice Chair Santa provided background on the resolution including the Governor's request to examine Connecticut's bail bond system. Atty. Farr moved adoption of resolution 2015-06. The resolution was adopted unanimously after discussion.

B. **Resolution Regarding a Study of Pretrial Diversionary Programs (R:2015-07)**

Atty. Ullmann moved adoption of resolution 2015-07. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

C. **Resolution Regarding the Commission's Strategic Plan (R: 2015-05)**

Atty. Moore provided an overview of the resolution, the Commission's strategic planning process, and the events that led up to it. Atty. Farr moved adoption of resolution 2015-05. The resolution was adopted unanimously after discussion.

D. **Resolution Regarding Victim Notification (R: 2015-04)**

Atty. Pierre provided background on the Victim Notification Working Group and the substance of their recommendations.

Atty. Kane moved adoption of the resolution which, after discussion and amendment was adopted with the word "incarceration" added after the words "more than two years" in the second line of section 1 and after the words "of more than two years" in the third line of section 1 of the document entitled "An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to Victim Notification."

VII. **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SEX OFFENDERS REPORT**

Atty. Farr provided a brief update on the work of the Special Committee on Sex Offenders and noted that an interim report will be ready for approval at the January 14th Commission meeting.

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VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Santa informed the Commission of an upcoming conference on criminal justice policy. The conference is entitled, "Building Bridges Refocused" and will take place on January 5th at Central Connecticut University.

Atty. Ullmann provided a brief update on the proposed study of need and risk-based sentencing.

IX. MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:13 p.m.

This meeting was recorded digitally by CT-N. Additional meeting materials are available on the Connecticut Sentencing Commission's website at www.ct.gov/ctsc/

2016 Commission Schedule

Meetings: **January 14th, March 10th, June 9th, September 8th, December 8th.**
(Time: 2-4pm; Location: Legislative Office Building)