



Michelle Cruz, Esq.
State Victim Advocate

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY
OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE
505 HUDSON STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 12, 2012

CONTACT: State Victim Advocate, Michelle Cruz, Esq. - (860) 550-6632

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Hartford) STATE VICTIM ADVOCATE MICHELLE CRUZ STRONGLY URGES GOVERNOR MALLOY TO SUSPEND THE RISK REDUCTION EARNED CREDIT PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY

"The Risk Reduction Earned Credit (RREC) program (aka: the good time credit program) continues to enable violent offenders by awarding these offenders with early release credits, placing our communities in danger. The expectation from the community is that if one of the individuals receiving RREC hit the streets early, even one day, they (the community) are safe. Sadly, we again have learned yet another beneficiary of the RREC program has committed a violent offense, this time a first degree sexual assault," stated Cruz.

According to information available at this time, Wayne Brown was arrested and charged with Sexual assault 1st, Unlawful restraint 2nd and Assault 3rd with reckless serious injury on October 6, 2012. According to the arrest report, Brown followed the woman home from a convenience store, asked to use her bathroom and then attacked her. Brown was released from prison on March 26, 2012 and is among those identified by the Department of Correction as having been released after the application of RREC.

"Wayne Brown is no stranger to the criminal justice system; *at the age of 16, Brown was convicted of Assault 2nd w/ weapon and Attempt to commit Robbery 3rd. He was sentenced to 7 years, suspended after serving 2 years and 4 years of probation. This is at age 16,*" stated Cruz. "Within four months of his release, he was charged with violating probation."

The violation of probation resulted in a suspended sentence followed by new arrests for Assault 3rd and Breach of peace in September of 2009. In December of 2009, Brown was sentenced to 3 years in prison. Two months after being released with approximately 130 days of RREC and unsupervised, on May 26, 2012, Brown was arrested for Assault 3rd, Breach of peace and Negligent pedestrian for which he paid a \$90.00 fine on September 18, 2012. Less than a month later on October 6, 2012, Brown, now age 22, has been arrested for this violent sexual assault. Mr. Brown is the result of our criminal justice system's current environment - weak sentences for habitual offenders and haphazard sentence reductions which exterminate the possibility of parole supervision, resulting in the perfect storm.

"I am asking the Governor to follow his own directions to now former president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, Robert Kennedy, "When you make a mistake, acknowledge it, own up to it, apologize for it and do what you need to fix it." urged Cruz.

"Sadly, the number of inmates released as a result of the RREC program and that have re-offended is shocking. The OVA is considering a press conference to highlight those repeat offenders and will continue to call for the suspension of the RREC program," said Cruz. "It is the right thing to do on behalf of all victims of crime and for the safety of the residents throughout our state."

END