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Governor and Cabinet Tap Pate for Parole Commission Second Term and Chairman

TALLAHASSEE – **Tena M. Pate** of Tallahassee was reappointed today to serve a second six-year term on the Florida Parole Commission by a majority vote of the Governor and Cabinet made during today's Cabinet meeting. She will also serve as the Commission's Chairman and agency head for the next two years. Commissioner Monica David was named as Vice Chairman.

"Obviously, I am pleased with the decision made (today) by Governor Crist and the Florida Cabinet members. I am honored that they value the work of the Commission, and I am especially humbled to serve as Chairman, even with the difficult challenges ahead for state agencies," Pate stated. "I look forward to working with the Governor, the Legislature, and my colleagues in this new role. I pledge that the Parole Commission, through its wonderful and dedicated employees, will continue to do its part to keep Florida's citizens and visitors safe, and when appropriate, assure that offenders have the necessary tools to successfully re-enter society."

A native Floridian and former resident of Niceville, Florida, Pate began her criminal justice career working in the Shalimar Office of the State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit and was named the first Victim's Advocate for Okaloosa and Walton counties. She has served the citizens of this State as Victims' Rights Coordinator for the State of Florida under Governors Chiles, MacKay, and Bush. As Florida's Victims' Rights Coordinator, she sought to strengthen and promote the rights of crime victims and played a key role in the passage and implementation of the law requiring courts to inform crime victims of their rights. In her capacity as Victims' Rights Coordinator, she oversaw various programs designed to assist Florida's citizens that were impacted by crime. She also served as a clemency assistant and served as Vice Chair on the Self-Inflicted Crimes Task Force created by former Florida Senate President John MacKay. Ms. Pate also co-chaired a state working group charged with developing model policies and procedures to address "violence in the workplace."

On July 1, 2010, Commissioner Pate was appointed by Chief Justice Charles T. Canady to serve on the Florida Supreme Court's *Florida Innocence Commission*, a twenty-three member body formed to study the dozen cases around Florida where an individual was wrongfully incarcerated and provide a report and recommendations to safeguard against such future events. Additionally, she is currently serving on Attorney General Bill McCollum's Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and the Leon County Child Abuse Death Review Team.

Ms. Pate's professional affiliations include membership in the Association for Paroling Authorities International, Florida Police Chiefs Association, American Probation and Parole Association, and the National Center for Victims of Crime. Her community involvement and activities include: serving as a mentor; appearing as an inspirational and motivational speaker for women's groups; serving on the Community Partnership Review Teams through the City of Tallahassee, Leon County, and the United Way; and serving as board chair for the Character and Heritage Institute, a non-profit organization that promotes character education through the Arts.

She was initially appointed to the Florida Parole Commission by Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida Cabinet in 2003.

Commissioner Pate resides in Tallahassee with her family.

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