



# FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION

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## **FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION PRESENTS "THE IMPACT OF CRIME" PANEL AT ATTORNEY GENERAL CONFERENCE**

**TALLAHASSEE, FLA.** – The Florida Parole Commission delivered a panel presentation titled, "The Impact of Crime: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference hosted by Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi in Jacksonville on Thursday.

The panel presentation, moderated by Commission Chair Tena Pate and created specifically for an audience of youth, highlighted the story of a woman who was a surviving victim of crime and current victims advocate, and three previously paroled individuals who described their journey through being held accountable, rehab, remorse and successful re-entry into society, as well as the realization of their impact on their victims, communities and family as a whole.

"It is vitally important that we pay attention to the root causes of youth committing crimes. If we see the signs early on we can intervene with corrective programs and assistance and change the direction of a child's life," commented Commission Chair Tena Pate. "Listening to the panelists speak to these youth about making the wrong decisions, and going down the wrong path strengthens my decision to take proactive measures to educate as many young people as possible about the real consequences of crime. The Commission launched an initiative focused on this issue earlier this year, and it is my hope that these steps taken now may deter future crimes from being committed."

The Florida Parole Commission has reached out to law enforcement and criminal justice professionals statewide and advocates that they mandate at-risk youth to attend parole hearings to see first-hand the impact crime has not only on the individual offender, but also on the dozens of victims it creates. Thursday's panel presentation represented the official launching of the Commission's crime prevention measures.

The 29th National Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference is a collaborative effort sponsored by Attorney General Pam Bondi to foster communication and action among practitioners through the sharing of innovative ideas and prevention strategies that have been successful in the black community. A major component of the program is directed toward alternatives to violence among our young people.

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### **About Florida Parole Commission**

*The Parole Commission is a constitutionally authorized decision-making body. The Commission administers parole, conditional release, conditional medical release, control release, and addiction recovery. The Commission also acts as the investigative arm of the Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Board of Executive Clemency in clemency matters.*