



# FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW

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## **CHAIR TENA PATE ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE FROM COMMISSION**

TALLAHASSEE, FLA- Tena M. Pate, Commissioner and Chair of the Florida Commission on Offender Review (FCOR) announced today that she will serve her final day as a sitting Commissioner on March 31, 2016. Originally appointed to the Commission in 2003 by Governor Bush and Cabinet to fill a commissioner vacancy, Pate received subsequent reappointments by Governors Crist and Scott to serve two complete six-year terms; the maximum number allowed under Florida law.

Commissioner Pate is the longest-serving female Chair in the Commission's almost 75 year history and has served the State of Florida and the public safety community for more than 30 years. In addition to the Commission, Pate has served in four of Florida's gubernatorial administrations including Martinez, Chiles, MacKay and Bush, been tapped for positions on high-profile national and statewide public safety boards and task forces, and currently serves as president-elect for the Association of Paroling Authorities International.

Throughout her tenure, Pate has leveraged her extensive knowledge of the pre/post conviction and prison release processes to propel the Commission forward in becoming a model for parole and supervision release processes and policies. Under Commissioner Pate's steadfast direction, several progressive initiatives have been established at FCOR including the implementation of an automated Commission Management System to streamline the preparation and review of cases by Commissioners; a Conditional Release Supervision pilot program with the Florida Department of Corrections to ensure proper programming for eligible inmates during incarceration for greater awareness and accountability of post-release supervision terms, greater chances of successful re-entry and reduced recidivism rates; an inmate family coordinator to offer clarification and information to Commission hearing visitors and complement the existing victims' services coordinator; and a cost-saving Notice to Appear alternative to arrest warrants allowing Commissioners the ability to direct inmates who have allegedly violated the conditions of their supervision to remain in the community during the revocation process in lieu of incarceration while awaiting final disposition of the violation by the Commission. Commissioner Pate's influence also played a pivotal role in securing the agency's new name last year which was needed to more accurately reflect the roles and responsibilities the Commission carries out on a daily basis.

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"I strongly believe that the Commission's efforts have contributed to our state's low crime rates and we will continue to make an impact by preventing the future victimization of our citizens through the informed and evidence-based decisions we make every day regarding criminal behaviors," Chair Pate stated. "Serving at the Commission has been an incredible opportunity to influence and be influenced by our state's criminal justice system and I look forward to continuing the criminal justice reform conversation at the next stop on my professional career journey – wherever that may be."

State Representative Dennis Baxley commented, "Tena Pate has a long history of progress on criminal justice issues addressed through her leadership at the Florida Commission on Offender Review. Her impact will be long felt in the justice mission."

"Tena Pate has served with distinction and a true servant's heart in a very tough job. I, and many more, wish her well in her next role", said Allison DeFoor, founding Chair of the Project on Accountable Justice at Florida State University.

"I applaud Commissioner Pate for all that she has accomplished during her time on the Commission on Offender Review. Because of her extraordinary commitment to the mission of the Commission, the people of our great state have benefitted greatly from her tireless efforts to seek the appropriate resolution to a variety of criminal justice issues. Because of her efforts, our community has remained safe and secure, and the people's faith in our system of criminal justice has remained securely intact. Her professionalism, dedication, compassion, and concern for all involved parties has always been evident in the work that she has done both on the Commission and in the arena of criminal justice reform, and her impact on the Commission will remain intact long after she has left. I sincerely wish her all the best in her future endeavors, and am confident she will continue to make a positive difference in any avenue she may pursue," stated Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Miami-Dade State Attorney.

Pate is a 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice and has received state and national awards from the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency and the Association of Paroling Authorities International.

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*The Florida Commission on Offender Review (FCOR) is a constitutionally authorized, quasi-judicial, decision-making body which has been serving the citizens of this state since 1941. The Commission holds offenders accountable for their behaviors and ensures public safety through its careful selection of offenders for re-entry into society by administering parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, and addiction recovery release supervision. The Commission also acts as the investigative arm of the Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Board of Executive Clemency in clemency matters. The Commission's mission is to ensure public safety and provide victim assistance through the post prison release process.*