



FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION

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Commissioner/Secretary

FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION Monthly Accomplishments Report March 2014

~CHAIR'S MESSAGE~ Tena M. Pate

The month of March began with the opening of Legislative Session on March 4, 2014. The Commission is progressively seeking passage of SB 1636/HB 7125 which relates to renaming the Florida Parole Commission to the Florida Commission on Offender Review (FCOR). When the Parole Commission was established in 1941, its primary responsibility was the review and selection of inmates for parole release and providing parole and probation supervision. Over time the duties of the Commission have evolved, and while parole is still one of our functions, additional roles and responsibilities have been added to the Commission by the Florida Legislature to include Conditional Release, Addiction Recovery, and Conditional Medical Release. The Commission also serves as the investigative and administrative arm of the Executive Board of Clemency, which is comprised of the Governor and members of the Cabinet. The clemency functions include capital case reviews for the Board of Executive Clemency. The Commission is an Executive branch agency and serves as a quasi-judicial decision making body with statewide jurisdiction, with a Revocations and Victims' Services Unit. The Commission holds on average three hearings per month in its Central Office location. The proposed name change will better reflect the primary work functions of the Commission, which is to review a variety of types of offenders' cases, and present the agency more accurately to the public. Legislative Affairs Director Kevin Reilly and I have met with various state legislators to discuss the benefits of changing the Commission's name to appropriately represent the important work we do to protect Florida's residents and visitors.

As the month progressed, the Commission prepared for the first Executive Clemency Board hearing of the year which was held on March 19. The Office of Executive Clemency, Office of Clemency Investigations, and our five regional offices successfully completed and submitted 70 clemency cases for consideration by the Board. Without their hard work and attention to detail, none of this would be possible.

I have said this many times before and I will continue saying it. The employees of the Commission are simply some of the most dedicated and professional individuals I have ever met. And, as Chair, I have many wonderful opportunities to shine the spotlight on specific members of this incredible team. Our staff works diligently in their respective positions at the Commission. One invaluable staff member I would like to recognize is Clemency Victims' Coordinator Dawn Mikola, who has secured a substantial amount of restitution to be paid to the victims' compensation fund benefitting crime victims in our state. With the observance of National Crime Victim's Rights Week occurring in April, it's important that the Commission contributes daily to restoring justice for crime victims.

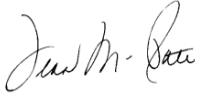
Continuing with our efforts to promote team building, we ended the month visiting central and south Florida field offices with Operations Director Shana Lasseter. These visits provided me an opportunity to continue with my one-on-one meetings with each employee and meet with regional administrators and supervisors. I would also like to commend Region V staff in Tampa who participated in a number of community outreach initiatives this month including a blood drive hosted by Department of Management Services and donated items to the Daystar program which assists families in need.

And last, but certainly not least, we observed Women's History Month this month. I was honored to participate in events acknowledging Florida's women leaders, to include serving as the keynote speaker at the Florida Public Safety

Institute's Women in History breakfast; in other news, I must simply take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to the Women for FSU as I was tremendously honored by being selected as the recipient of the *2014 Gift of Wisdom* award by Women for FSU. This award was presented to me at the Women for Florida State University Foundation's annual Backstage Pass event with Ms. Gina Giacomo and Ms. Julia McCall in attendance.

The Commission is steadily moving forward with many initiatives that will enhance the work we do to keep Florida communities safe. Please continue reading all of the March accomplishments below.

Respectfully,



Tena M. Pate
Chair

COMMISSION SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Office of Legislative Affairs

Kevin Reilly, Director

- Attended the opening of the 2014 Florida Legislative Session.
- Attended appropriate House and Senate committee meetings.
- SB 1636/ HB 7125 related to renaming the Parole Commission was scheduled to be read for the second time on the floor but was postponed to April 3, 2014.
- Attended the law enforcement breakfast hosted by the Office of Attorney General Pam Bondi.
- Attended Executive Office of the Governor Legislative Affairs Director's Meetings.
- Met with various legislators and staff to discuss proposed Commission legislation.
- Conducted ongoing legislative constituent relations regarding various Commission functions.

Operations

Shana Lasseter, Director

The month of March was particularly busy with numerous field visits, attention to personnel matters, preparations for National Crime Victims' Rights Week and final preparations for *Operation Justice Owed*, a Commission warrant sweep being conducted by the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force.

The Operations Division said farewell to Region 4 Administrator Sheila Roberts and congratulated Ayesha Carson on her promotion to this position. In conjunction with field visits to Regions 3 and 4, several team members from central office were able to join Sheila and her family at her retirement event in West Palm Beach on March 29th.

Commission and USMS team members logged many hours during March investigating the whereabouts of those targeted by the warrant sweep. Additionally, team members provided confirmation of death in a number of cases, thus allowing the Commission to dispose of the warrants for those offenders and close interest in their cases.

Also during March, Operations and Clemency staff members tested and ultimately purchased a new investigative tool useful in victim searches and clemency investigations. CLEAR is a secure, web-based investigative interface that allows government and law enforcement investigators and analysts to easily access billions of public records and related information. No other online investigative tool provides the combination of data, features, and capabilities found on CLEAR. The program provides information that is complete, in that a vast collection of proprietary and public records are available, including comprehensive cell phone, utilities data, social networks, blogs, news and more. The information is also current as it provides live gateways that connect the user to real-time information.

The Victims' Services unit works through CLEAR to locate victims in parole and clemency cases, which are oftentimes over 25 years old and difficult in terms of locating victims so many years later. A significant number are murder cases in which locating deceased victims' relatives proves highly challenging. CLEAR also proved extremely useful to staff members assisting the USMS with locating absconders from supervision.

Office of the Commission Clerk

Cases Docketed:

Parole	90
Conditional Medical	3
Conditional Release	359
Addiction Recovery	77
TOTAL	529

Month	Paroles		Conditional Medical Release	
	Granted	Denied	Granted	Denied
March	1	1	0	2

Imaging

- March 2014 totals for Imaging Inmate Records (IRIS):

Completed Documents	2,458
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Revocations

STATISTICS:

Warrants Issued	179
Cases Reviewed and Prepared for Docket	91

Include Parole, Conditional Medical Release, Conditional Release, Addiction Recovery Release and/or Control Release.

Personnel:

Demetris Brown was hired as the new Parole Technician II in Communications.

Actions:

The Revocation Specialists began reviewing cases for extradition for the "Warrant Sweep".

Activities:

Jamil Jefferson is a mentor with the Big Brothers Big Sister Mentoring 2.0 Program.

Victims' Services

	March 2014
Victims' requests for information on parole, conditional release, and conditional medical cases	222
Victims Located	32
Status updates to victims on parole, conditional medical and clemency cases	682
Assisted victims who attended parole or clemency hearings	30

Field Services

Field Services' Statewide Activity Totals

	March 2014
Monthly Interviews and Hearings Conducted:	
Parole Interviews	62

Revocation Interviews	232
Revocation Hearings	54
Total Interviews and Hearings for the Month	348

REGION I:

- COURTESY INTERSTATE COMPACT TASKS:
 - Region I performed one notice and no hearings.
- PENDING CLEMENCY CASES:
 - With a hearing: 650
 - Without a hearing: 38
 - Total Cases: 688
- TRAINING:
 - Examiner Gallogly participated in a re-entry seminar at Santa Rosa Annex on 3/19/14.

REGION II:

- COURTESY INTERSTATE COMPACT TASKS:
 - Region II had one (1) request for a Courtesy Preliminary Hearing.
- PENDING CLEMENCY CASES:
 - With a hearing: 871
 - Without a hearing: 91
 - Total Cases: 968
- PERSONNEL ACTION:
 - The vacant Parole Examiner position in Jacksonville has been re-advertised and the advertisement will close on 4/4/2014.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE:
 - Examiner Cliff Rowan is a volunteer through the Florida Gaurdian Ad Litem program in Columbia County.
 - Examiner Gary Fox is a volunteer and coach with the Special Population Activities Recreation Council (SPARC) in Volusia County.
 - Regional Administrator Mills Rowland is a Supervision Group Leader for the Stephen Ministry through the Beach United Methodist Church and the Church of Eleven22.

REGION III:

- COURTESY INTERSTATE COMPACT TASKS:
 - Region III received four requests for probable cause hearings during March.
- PENDING CLEMENCY CASES:
 - With a hearing: 966
 - Without a hearing: 80
 - Total Cases: 1,046
- COMMUNITY SERVICE:
 - Jolynn Linder participated as a volunteer in March doing two phonograph demonstrations. The first was a 2 day event for Fort Christmas', Blue Grass Festival and the second was for the North Brevard Historical Society 21st BBQ fundraiser.
- MISCELLANEOUS:
 - Chair Pate and Director of Operations Shana Lasseter visited the Ocala Fielf Office on 3/26/14.
 - Department of Corrections rejected the latest Melbourne P&P lease bid process and plan to re-bid. Titusville FPC staff are expected to move to the Melbourne location once finalized. FPC remains grateful to DC for hosting us in temporary office space in Titusville P&P during this process.

REGION IV:

- COURTESY INTERSTATE COMPACT TASKS:
 - 6 - Notice of Hearing/Postponements
 - 1 - Probable Cause Hearing
- PENDING CLEMENCY CASES:
 - With a hearing: 2,300
 - Without a hearing: 198
 - Total Cases: 2,498
- PERSONNEL ACTION:
 - Sheila Roberts retired with 35 years of service
 - Ayesha Carson-New Regional Administrator
- TRAINING:
 - Sandie Pimental FCIC/NCIC Recertification
- COMMUNITY SERVICE:
 - Jayne Hayden began volunteering as a Guardian ad Litem and has become a member of Broward County Victim Rights Coalition
- MISCELLANEOUS:
 - Chair Pate and Shana Lasseter visited Region IV
 - Sheila Roberts' retirement dinner was held March 28th.

REGION V:

- COURTESY INTERSTATE COMPACT TASKS:
 - 10 requests for hearings received.
- PENDING CLEMENCY CASES:
 - With a Hearing: 1,146
 - Without a Hearing: 170
 - Total Cases: 1,316
- TRAINING:
 - Linda Dixon started Excel training taking the Get to Know Excel 2007: Creating Your First Workbook course 03/04/2014.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE:
 - The next FCCD Chapter I Meeting is 03/20/2014. Cathy Aylstock will attend.
 - Lindsey Harris, Jerry Harris' daughter, is collecting shoes for a school project until May. Region V is assisting her in this project. The goal is to collect 1000 or more shoes.
 - The FCCD State Board will accept donated supplies for the Kids In Support of Soldiers, Inc., Campaign, until 05/29/2014.
 - Levar Allen participated in the DMS Blood Drive at Park Trammell.
 - Kip Astrom attended the last Pinellas Ex-Offender Coalition (PERC) meeting.
 - Patti Razor, representing PERC, met with Nikki Capehart of the St. Petersburg Mayor's Office to discuss the 2014 Showcase of Services and the establishment of a Training University in Midtown St. Petersburg. The Training University will offer apprenticeship programs for residents.
 - Levar Allen attended the March Polk County Public Safety Council Meeting.
 - Patti Razor is accepting donated items for the Daystar Program in Pinellas County to help the indigent.
 - Melinda Strickland is the contact person for Special Olympics T-shirts and hats for the upcoming Torch Run.

Administration

Gina Giacomo, Director

The Division of Administration's primary accomplishments in the month of March 2014 included: Prepared and provided to all staff detailed instructions on the Peer Review and Lump Sum Bonus and trained leadership statewide on the process. We share with all FPC employees the accomplishment of completing the Peer Review process timely. Accounting achieved 100% prompt payment on invoices. The Division of Administration achieved full utilization in all five key functions of the utilization matrix in FY 2013-14.

Administration and Operations met with DOC IT staff and reviewed all pending SLATS to determine timeline for completion. Provided staff information on Wellness, Submitted request for updates to the Commissions websites, Assisted with bill analysis, reported many issues to DMS concerning the new cleaning services, Attended the Women’s History breakfast, completed the Lean Six Sigma training. Improved the process of paying visiting Commissioners, Completed three DMS surveys, Conducted interviews for vacant position, Completed many purchases for goods and services, and participated as members of the training team

Division employees attended trainings/meetings on the following topics, (1) FASAAD Administration, (4) Purchasing Director meeting, (2) Human Resource, (2) CMS meetings, (1) Quarterly IAC meeting, (2) FACTS awards workshop, (1) Records Management training, (2) Activities committee meeting (4) Training Team meeting (1) Amerisys meeting, (3) Victims Rights week planning meeting, (3) Safety Committee meeting, (1) Website meeting, (5) Lump Sum Bonus trainings and (2) Business meeting.

Office of Clemency Investigations

Steve Hebert, Director

Pending Clemency Cases April 1, 2014

Types of Clemency Cases	March 2014
RCR Cases	12,271
Without a Hearing Cases (1,178)	
With a Hearing Cases (11,093)	
Non-RCR Cases*	8,106
Total Pending Clemency Cases	20,377

* Full Pardon, Specific Authority to Own/Possess/Use Firearms, Remission of Fines, Commutation of Sentence and Request for Review.

Highlights / Accomplishments for the month of March 2014 for the Office of Clemency Investigations include:

- On March 12, 2014, the Director of Clemency Investigations provided training to the Regional Administrators and Supervisors during a conference call to include procedures related to clemency investigations and the Rules of Executive Clemency.
- On March 19, 2014, the Governor and Cabinet, sitting collectively as the Clemency Board, held its first quarterly Clemency Board Meeting at the Capitol. The Commission completed and submitted 70 in-depth clemency investigations for Commutation of Sentence, Full Pardons, Firearm Authority and Restoration of Civil Rights for consideration by the Board. The Coordinator of the Office of Executive Clemency presented the cases to the Board, and the Chair provided detailed information related to the Confidential Case Analyses and processes to the Board Members in response to their inquiries.
 - This office researched the specific reasons why applicants requested restoration of their civil rights. We reviewed the 54 Restoration of Civil Rights cases heard at the March 19, 2014 Clemency Board Meeting. Several applicants indicated multiple reasons in their statements to our examiners, and the following information is a brief summary of what our research revealed:
 1. 78% of the applicants specifically indicated that they were interested in regaining their right to vote, sit on a jury or hold public office.
 2. 13% of the applicants specifically indicated that they were interested in obtaining their civil rights to help them with employment, ranging from specific licenses or occupations to general job opportunities.
 3. 20% of the applicants did not provide any specific reason for requesting their civil rights.
 4. 33% of the applicants voted in an election without having their civil rights restored.
- On March 4, 2014, the Office of Clemency Investigations said goodbye to Parole Examiner Dave Roberts after almost 8 years with this office as he has retired from state government.
- Conducted capital punishment clemency investigations and coordinated interviews for death row inmates.
- Conducted quality assurance reviews of all clemency investigations completed by regional field offices.

- Reviewed Restoration of Civil Rights cases for eligibility prior to sending them out to field offices for in-depth field investigations to be conducted, and conducted Request for Review investigations for commutation of sentence applications.

Office of Communications
Molly Kellogg-Schmauch, Director

- Provided media relations at the quarterly Executive Clemency hearing and weekly parole hearings.
- Attended the Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) Women in History Breakfast at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy with Chair Pate and leadership team members.
- Drafted talking points for Women in History key note address at FPSI and the Women for Florida State University Foundation event.
- Finalized the Victims’ Services brochure.
- Completed updates of the new FPC website with DOC Information Technology, new website will be launched in April.
- Finalized event plans and materials for National Crime Victim’s Rights Week (NCVRW) in April.
- Drafted press release for NCVRW events at the Commission.
- Drafted and distributed invitations for the Miami parole hearing in May.
- Drafted various employee informational messages regarding upcoming events and acknowledgements including training messages.
- Coordinated and responded to various public records and media requests.

Executive Clemency
Julia McCall, Clemency Coordinator

Efficiency and customer service is our main focus. This month we will start scanning executive orders for restoration of civil rights that were granted at the quarterly meetings from previous years into our system. This will enable interested parties to print these executive orders from our www.FLrestoremyrights.com website when the scanning is complete.

WEBPAGE STATISTICS

- The Florida Parole Commission has received 1,302,836 hits with 973,191 searches for Restoration of Civil Rights (RCR) grants.
- 104,426 names were located and 65,335 certificates have been printed.
- Currently there are 375,654 RCR certificates available for printing through the www.FLrestoremyrights.com website.

Legal Office
Sarah Rumph, General Counsel

Some of the orders that we received from the courts this month include:

1. Lyons v. FPC: the former conditional releasee challenged that § 947.141, F.S. was not effective at the time that his conditional release was revoked. The court traced the abbreviated history of the statute and rejected the argument.
2. Walsh v. FPC: this was a thorough opinion issued by the court rejecting the inmate’s challenges to the establishment of the PPRD. This included challenges to the salient factor score, offense severity level, the aggravation for multiple separate offenses, the aggravation for concealment of evidence, the aggravation for the heinous and atrocious nature of the crime and legal procedural grounds of due process and double jeopardy.
3. Harrison v. Pate & Crews: In this revocation of conditional release case, the court upheld the reasons given by the Commission for the revocation and the finding that the violations were willful.
4. Waller v. DOC & FPC: this challenge involved both the FPC grant/denial of credit for time following a revocation of conditional release and the Department’s calculation of his sentence. The court reaffirmed that determining the affect of the Commission’s revocation orders on the releasee’s sentence was the duty of the Department. The court then went on to uphold the revocation itself.