

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## ***Full Commission Meeting***

Thursday, October 24, 2013

2:00 p.m.

Legislative Office Building, Room 1B

Hartford, CT

***Members Present:*** Hon. David Borden (Chair), Mike Lawlor (Vice Chair), Hon. Robert Devlin, William Carbone, Susan Pease, Vivien Blackford, Maureen Price-Boreland, Thomas Ullmann, Erika Tindill, Kevin Kane, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Peter Gioia, David Shepack, Mark Palmer, Garvin Ambrose, Hon. Gary White

***Members Absent:*** Hon. Patrick Carroll, Tracey Meares, John Santa, Reuben Bradford, Patricia Rehmer, Susan Storey

***Also Participating:*** Sen. Eric Coleman, Rep. Gerald Fox, Andrew Clark (Acting Executive Director), Jason DePatie

## **MINUTES**

### **I. MEETING CONVENED**

Justice Borden called the meeting to order at approximately 2:15 p.m.

### **II. WELCOME: JUDICIARY CO-CHAIRS, SENATOR COLEMAN & REPRESENTATIVE FOX**

Justice Borden welcomed Senator Coleman and Representative Fox to the meeting and invited them to share their comments on the 2013 and 2014 legislative sessions. Senator Coleman, on behalf of his constituents, suggested that one area the Commission could consider for a future project is Connecticut's drunk driving statutes. In addition, Senator Coleman expressed interest in sentence modification procedures, specifically referencing the prosecutorial veto process. Representative Fox articulated interest in a potential proposal on mandatory minimum sentences. He also wanted to know what other states are doing regarding juvenile sentencing reform. Representative Fox encouraged the Commission to consider submitting another technical bill and to continue its efforts to make the statutes consistent. Commission members asked the Judiciary Co-chairs about the perception of the Sentencing Commission among legislators and Representative Fox shared that the Commission is viewed as a legitimate, nonpartisan group. Justice Borden thanked Senator Coleman and Representative Fox for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting, and expressed the Commission's enthusiasm to work with them during the upcoming session.

## CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

### **III. WELCOME: BILL DYSON (APPOINTED BY SPEAKER BRENDAN SHARKEY)**

Justice Borden welcomed Bill Dyson to the Sentencing Commission, and several Commission members expressed their respect for Mr. Dyson and their anticipation to work with him in the future.

### **IV. APPOINTMENT OF NEW LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR: BILL DYSON**

Justice Borden appointed Bill Dyson as chair of the Legislative Committee and concurrently welcomed Garvin Ambrose to the Committee's membership.

### **V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS OF JUNE 20, 2013 & SEPTEMBER 19, 2013**

With the correction of a typo, the minutes were **approved by a unanimous voice vote**.

### **VI. UPDATE: PUBLIC CONTACT INFORMATION**

Commission members updated their public contact information for the website.

### **VII. 2014 APPROPRIATION REQUEST & STAFFING PROPOSAL**

A budget proposal prepared by the Steering Committee was distributed to members. Upon a duly made and seconded motion, the proposed budget was **approved by a unanimous voice vote**. Mike Lawlor advised the Commission that the next steps in the process will be approval of the request by the Office of Policy and Management, which will then be submitted to the Governor for his signature. Bill Dyson expressed that an advocate for the Commission should speak to the Governor and OPM to help secure funding.

### **VIII. 2014 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SENTENCING COMMISSION (NASC) CONFERENCE**

Andrew Clark was pleased to announce that Connecticut has been selected as the location for the 2014 NASC Conference. Yale University is currently being considered as the host site and the schedule of events is presently under discussion.

### **IX. DISCUSSION: JUVENILE SENTENCE RECONSIDERATION BILL (HB-6581), CERTIFICATES OF REHABILITATION (HB-6582), DRUG-FREE ZONES (HB-6511)**

Amended proposals for the 2014 legislative session will be posted on the Commission's website and discussed at the December 19, 2013 meeting.

## CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

### **X. COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING: NOVEMBER 21, 2013, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 2C**

Commission members were reminded that the start time for the public hearing was pushed back an hour to 11:00 a.m. to accommodate the CJPAC meeting. A concern was raised regarding members of the public who are unable to take the day off to testify. Members were encouraged to advise Justice Borden and Andrew Clark of potential conflicts that they may be aware of regarding those who wish to testify, but are unable to attend. Written testimony received by mail and email and will be posted to the website.

### **XI. DRAFT: PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE PROTOCOL**

A protocol on public correspondence will be developed to ensure inquiries from the public are acknowledged and appropriately addressed.

### **XII. MEMBERSHIP: BAIL WORKING GROUP**

The membership of the new Bail Working Group will include Judge White and Garvin Ambrose.

### **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was addressed.

### **XIV. MEETING ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.