

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 23rd, 2020

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Legislative Office Building, Room 2B

300 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT

MINUTES

Members Present: *Robert J. Devlin (chair), John Santa (vice chair), Chris Rapillo, Carelton Giles, Rollin Cook, Sarah Russell, Gary White, Thomas Kulhawik, Gary Roberge, Jennifer Zito, Gail Hardy, Brian Foley (on behalf of James Rovella)*

Guest: *Representative Jillian Gilchrest*

Staff: *Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Van Augur, Cynthia Samokar*

I. MEETING CONVENED

The meeting convened at 2:06 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 12.5.2019 MEETING

Commissioner Giles made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hardy. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRY

Judge Devlin introduced members of the Commission to Representative Jillian Gilchrest, who has agreed to support and co-sponsor the Commission's proposal to reform the Sexual Offender Registry. Representative Gilchrest and Judge Devlin acknowledged Commissioner Cook's concerns with the bill as written, and plan to continue to have the discussions with the Department of Correction and other stakeholders.

IV. SYMPOSIUM ON RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND SOCIOECONOMIC DISPARITIES

Members of the Commission shared their experience from the symposium on racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities held at the University of Connecticut School of Law. The video of the symposium will be available shortly for those who were not able to attend.

V. APPROVAL OF THE INTERIM REPORT PER SPECIAL ACT 19-17

Commissioner Rapillo moved to approve the Commission's Interim Report on disparities in the criminal justice system and submit it to the Judiciary Committee of the General Assembly. The report was produced per Special Act 19-17. Commissioner Hardy seconded the motion. The motion was passed anonymously.

VI. APPROVAL OF THE 2019 SENTENCING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioner Giles moved to approve the Commission's Annual Report and submit it to the Judiciary Committee of the General Assembly. Commissioner Zito seconded the motion. The motion was passed anonymously.

VII. 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

1. *An Act Concerning the Sexual Offender Registry*
2. *An Act Concerning Misdemeanor Sentences*
3. *An Act Concerning Sentence Modification and Review*

Judge Devlin and Alex Tsarkov reviewed the Commission proposals that would be introduced during the 2020 legislative session. They also noted that the Commission would testify in support of restoration of voting rights for people on parole.

VIII. PRETRIAL RELEASE AND DETENTION

Judge Devlin provided an update on the continued work of retired judge Jonathan Silbert with the Commission stakeholders to develop a proposal that would reduce the detained pretrial population and eliminate money bail as a detention mechanism.

Judge Devlin reminded the Commission that the changes to the 10% cash bail option went into effect on January 1st of 2020. Commissioners Rapillo, Kulhawik and Roberge provided an update on their outreach efforts to spread awareness of this change.

IX. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Incarceration and the Collateral Consequences of Criminal Convictions Subcommittee
2. Voting Rights Working Group
3. Mental Health Subcommittee
4. Working Group on Sentence Modification and Review

Commissioners Russel, Santa, and White provided updates on the recent work of the above four subcommittees. The Mental Health Subcommittee will hold a meeting on February 4th at the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Alex Tsarkov provided the Commission a copy of two requests that the Commission received from Representative Josh Elliot.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.