

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## Regular Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 2:00 – 3:30 PM

WebEx

**Members Present:** *Robert J. Devlin, Jr. (chair), John Santa (vice-chair), Carleton Giles, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan (on behalf of Chris Rapillo), Garry Roberge, Mark Palmer, Michael Norko (on behalf of Miriam Delphin-Rittmon), Patrick L. Carroll, III, Kevin Lawlor (on behalf of Richard Colangelo, Jr.), Thomas Kulhawik, Bill Dyson, Angel Quiros, Brian Foley (on behalf of James Rovella), Sarah Russell, Vernon Oliver, Robert Farr, Margaret Kelley, and Michael Chase*

**Staff:** *Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Andrew Clark, and Van Augur*

## MIUNTES

### I. MEETING CONVENED

Judge Devlin convened the meeting at 2:05.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 9.16.2020 MEETING

Commissioner Santa made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Russell. The motion passed unanimously.

### III. DIVERSIONARY PROGRAMS REPORT

Judge Devlin, Alex Tsarkov, and Van Augur discussed the Commission's Report on Diversionary Programs and addressed questions from the Commission. Commissioner Santa made a motion to approve the study, seconded by Commissioner Roberge. The motion was passed unanimously.

### IV. FIREARMS REPORT

Van Augur presented the findings of the Commission's report on Sentencing Outcomes for Firearm Offenses and answered questions from the Commission. Commissioner Roberge recommended a technical change about fees for probation. Commissioner Russell moved to approve the study with Commissioner Roberge's recommended change. Commissioner Santa seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

V. SENTENCE MODIFICATION PROPOSAL

Commission members discussed a proposal from the Sentencing Reform Subcommittee that would modify eligibility for sentence modification. Commissioner Russell moved that the Commission adopt the recommendation. Commissioner Giles seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

VI. DRUG FREE ZONES PROPOSAL

Commission members discussed a second proposal from the Sentencing Reform Subcommittee that would reduce the drug-free school zones from 1,500 feet to 200 feet. Commissioner Santa moved that the Commission adopt the recommendation. Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, on behalf of Commissioner Rapillo seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

VII. VOTING PROPOSAL

Commission members discussed a proposal that would restore electoral rights to inmates incarcerated for a felony conviction. Commission members discussed issues of inmates/ residence for the purposes of voting, the legal obligations of the Department of Correction among other issues.

Commissioner Santa motioned to amend the proposal to exclude inmates incarcerated for life without the possibility of release from the restoration of electoral rights. Commissioner Farr seconded the motion. The motion to amend carried with 15 voting in favor, 2 in opposition, and 1 abstaining.

Commissioner Santa motioned for the Commission to adopt the proposal as amended. Commissioner Dyson seconded the motion. The motion carried with 13 in favor, 3 opposed, and 2 abstaining.

VIII. COMPASSIONATE RELEASE

Commissioner Russell provided an update on Commission members' consideration of possible changes to Connecticut's medical and compassionate parole statutes.

IX. ADJOURNED

Judge Devlin adjourned the meeting at 3:30 P.M.