

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 24th, 2021

2:00 – 3:30 P.M.

Members Present: *Robert J. Devlin, Jr. (chair), Bob Farr, Brian Foley (on behalf of James Rovella), Carleton Giles, Christine Rapillo, Jennifer Zito, Jeremiah Johnson, Vernon Oliver, Margaret Kelley, Mark Palmer, Sarah Russell, Gary Roberge, Joan Alexander, Michael Chase, Richard Colangelo, Jr., Natasha Pierre, Bill Dyson, Patrick Carroll, Eulalia Garcia (on behalf of Angel Quiros), Michael Norko (on behalf of Miriam Delphin-Rittmon)*

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

Guests: *James Kimmel, Jr., J.D. (Lecturer in Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine)*

MINUTES

I. MEETING CONVENED

Judge Devlin called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 1.20.2020 MEETING

Commissioner Zito motioned to approve the January 20th Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Judge Devlin and Alex Tsarkov described the draft of the annual report. Commissioner Giles motioned to approve the 2020 Annual Report and expressed thanks to its authors. Commissioner Farr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Judge Devlin introduced Sergeant Jeremiah Johnson of the Darien Police Department to the Commission.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- HB 6594, *An Act Concerning the Criminal Justice Process*
- SB 1019, *An Act Concerning the Board of Pardons and Paroles, Erasure of Criminal Records for Certain Misdemeanor and Felony Offenses, Prohibiting Discrimination based on Erased Criminal History Record Information and Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to Misdemeanor Sentences*
- HB 5318, *An Act Concerning Restoring Electoral Privileges to Convicted Felons Who are on Parole*
- SB 923, *An Act Concerning Review of Animal Cruelty Laws by the Connecticut Sentencing Commission*

Judge Devlin provided an update on the Commission's 2021 legislative proposals and noted that the General Assembly raised three of the five proposals. Alex Tsarkov provided an update on the status of the proposals to the Judiciary Committee concerning drug-free zones, sentence modification, and misdemeanor sentences. Alex further noted that the Government Administration and Elections committee is currently considering a bill that would restore electoral privileges to individuals on parole, but explained that the committee did not raise the Commission's proposal to restore voting rights to everyone incarcerated except for those serving a life sentence without possibility of parole.

Judge Devlin and Alex also noted that the legislature is considering a bill that would require the Commission to study the state's animal cruelty laws and those of other jurisdictions. Judge Devlin noted that the Commission will form a subcommittee to investigate these issues if the bill passes and invited interested members to support this committee's efforts.

Commissioner Zito inquired about the Commission's proposal concerning reforms to the Sexual Offender Registry, and Judge Devlin informed the Commission that the Judiciary Committee opted not to raise the bill.

Commissioner Farr suggested that the Commission may want to consider a proposal that would allow those who were placed on the registry retroactively to seek removal.

V. PRESENTATION: PUBLIC HEALTH-BASED SENTENCING & VICTIM SUPPORT

Judge Devlin, on behalf of Michael Norko, introduced James Kimmel of the Yale School of Medicine. Mr. Kimmel presented to the Commission on current trends in psychiatric research, which have utilized the brain imaging techniques commonly used to study for performing similar substance abuse analyses of criminal and victim behavior. He explained how an analytic framework

modeled after addiction treatment has promise for use in efforts to reduce violence and promote victim and community recovery.

Michael Norko expressed how Mr. Kimmel's research relates to certain long-term initiatives for the criminal justice system to better serve victims' psychological needs.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Judge Devlin adjourned the meeting at 3:30.