



The Deuce Club

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Special points of interest:

- Four states — KS, MI, NJ, NY — reduced prison populations by 5-20% since 1999
- At least 19 states adopted policies in 2009 that promote prison population reductions through sentencing, probation and parole reforms, and reexamining effective public policy

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Issues to be addressed in 2010 — Criminal Justice According to the NYS Assembly Committee on Correction

Prisoner Reentry

There are currently more than 58,000 people in state prison in New York and an additional 29,000 in local county jails. Most of this population will eventually return to our communities. Currently, DOCS releases about 25,000 people each year. The success of people returning from incarceration stands to benefit our entire community while failure perpetuates a cycle of recidivism and incarceration. Currently, persons returning from incarceration face many obstacles including insufficient medical and mental health benefits, employment discrimination, and the inability to find

suitable housing.

The Correction Committee is committed to advancing legislation that will assist people convicted of crimes to successfully reenter society therefore reducing further criminal behavior and victimization of our communities. Specifically, a number of legislative initiatives will be advanced to promote employment opportunities for persons returning from incarceration including: (1) providing a tax credit for employers who hire persons recently released from incarceration; (2) streamlining the process for formerly incarcerated people to obtain a Certificate of Relief from

Disabilities or a Certificate of Good Conduct; (3) expanding the protections against discrimination for persons with a criminal record who pose no threat to public safety and ensuring that employers are informed about New York's anti-discrimination laws; (4) removing barriers to employment for persons with criminal records.

Additionally, the Correction Committee will again advance legislation to ensure that Medicaid applications are filed for people in prison before release from prison and that all people in prison who are eligible for Medicaid receive coverage immediately upon release.

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Medical Parole in New York State

In April 2009, New York State passed into law an expansion of the eligibility for medical parole to include those convicted of A1 violent offenses (except murder 1, attempted murder 1 & C1), 1st degree manslaughter,

and sex offenses, provided half the sentenced time has been served. This law was proposed by Governor Paterson in his 2009-2010 budget and was passed April 3, 2009. The expansion to medical parole was projected to

save \$2 million for the budget year by the early release of such prisoners. New York estimates the care of a gravely ill prisoner at \$150,809 per year, according to a NY

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For the President, From the Editor — Déjà vu?

Senate Republicans, Dale Volker, Marty Golden, Frank Padavan and Andrew Lanza, in responding to a series of articles on parole in the *Albany Times Union*, emerging from the Feb. 16 police shooting in Albany of an individual on parole alleged to have been armed, prompted the following responses: “The Paterson administration has tied the hands of parole officers, preventing them from making sound determinations about whether or not a violent offender should be out on the streets or behind bars.” (Sen. Golden) “This fiasco at the Division of Parole is the latest example of New York Democrats giving convicted criminals a second, a third and even a fourth chance, and putting innocent, law-abiding New Yorkers at greater risk.” (Sen. Padavan)

A little more than two years ago, the Republicans waged the same campaign against the Spitzer administration. In fact, the Republicans called for a hearing, at which Denise O'Donnell, Director of NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, Brian Fischer, Commissioner of NYS Dept. of Correctional Services, and George Alexander, Chair and CEO of NYS Division of Parole, testified.

Could this happen again, that is,

the GOP Conference calling for a hearing to question the top officials in criminal justice about parole policy?

Make no mistake about it. With the Paterson administration in freefall, the Republicans are looking to regain some of the political power it lost when Spitzer became governor and the Senate went over to a democratic majority. *Make no mistake about it.* When the Commissioner

of Corrections is doing the smart thing, that is, closing prisons and proposing to

close prisons we no longer need — and the rank and file in Corrections resent this and him for such — and Republicans are attempting to make an argument to keep these prisons open when it makes no sense fiscally, or from a public safety perspective, something *is* seriously wrong in Albany, and not just in the Governor's office. For years prisons were used to subsidize employment in rural upstate New York. No longer can the State afford to subsidize this costly jobs program. Instead, Republicans should

“With the Paterson administration in freefall, the Republicans are looking to regain some of the political power it lost when Spitzer became governor and the Senate went over to a democratic majority.”

be looking at an economic Marshall Plan for upstate New York that does not depend on prisons, especially when we don't need them, for employment. (Note that when the prison privatization movement began in the early 1980s, critics of it said that because the for profit prisons would have a vested interest in ensuring that prison beds remained filled, that they would lobby for tougher laws and longer sentences

in order to maintain and of course increase the bottom line. Ironically, New York has opposed private prisons, *because* it has used its prison system as a jobs program.)

The U.S. Attorney General, Eric Holder, in a speech at the 2009 ABA

Convention, talked about being “smart on crime.” He also said, “It is time to move past politics and ideology, and to move forward to a criminal justice system that is predicated on the fact that we need it to be fair and effective.” Obviously, these Republicans, in their sound and fury, think that the appearance of “toughness” trumps smarts. It's politics as usual in Albany!



New Reports Find Trend in Reform Policies, Prison Downsizing

“Downscaling Prison: Lessons from Four States,” released by Justice Strategies and The Sentencing Project, finds that four states — Kansas, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York — have reduced their prison populations by 5-20% since 1999 without any increases in crime. This came about at a time when the national prison population in-

creased by 12%; and in six states it increased by more than 40%. The reductions were achieved through a mix of legislative reforms and changes in practice by corrections and parole agencies. The reforms included:

Kansas — Changed sentencing guidelines to divert lower-level drug

cases to treatment rather than incarceration; expanded supportive services to people on parole supervision.

Michigan — Eliminated most mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses, enacted statewide initia-

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Realities of Reentry — *It's Been a Year!*

"You must have long range goals to keep from being frustrated by short range stumbling blocks." Hebrews 12:2

The reality is that it's been a little over a year now since I was released and "reentered" society. I would like to say that "time flies when you're having fun...blah, blah, blah," but in actuality it hasn't all been fun. Don't get me wrong: my worse day out here is a gazillion times better than my best day in there, but again it hasn't all been fun. The fact of the matter is life is sometimes rough, can be difficult and oftentimes just plain unfair.

Still, it has truly been a blessing to regain my physical freedom while attempting to be a blessing to others. I must admit two sincere regrets: one, the grief I gave so many people before I got the chance to see what living life on life's terms was all about; and two, the many good brothers, men of integrity, strength and so much promise, that I have left behind! I am fortunate and thankful to have reached this milestone because so many of my brethren have not been successful at their reentry. Without naming names, I want to tell you brothers (and sisters, too) not to hang your head in shame or be depressed because the "reality" is that most of you will still live to get another chance. So prepare to get it right the next time.

I thank God that He blessed me to not be the typical reentry case, but nonetheless, it can be a difficult and sometimes daunting task to navigate your prayed/hoped for release. This is especially true with the "depressed" economy and with our communities continuing to suffer from decades old blight, mis-education and poverty. By the grace of God, I am and have been on the frontline of assisting people formally incarcerated reintegrate into society. Whether it is providing

aprovable/affordable housing, counseling, programs or mentorship, I, along with the staff of Back To Basics, have been making a difference. Nevertheless, it is very difficult and next to impossible to best assist someone who has not adequately prepared in some way or another for his/her release. No matter the case, you should, 'technically', from the day of your arrest and/or incarceration begin preparing for your release. You do this by steadily equipping yourself with the tools necessary to be successful outside of prison.

If you think things are hard out here then try doing little or nothing to prepare yourself and I assure you things will

get exponentially worse! You have more time on your hands now to read, learn, practice and prepare then you'll ever have once you're out here and firmly entrenched in the "rat race." The reality of reentry is that it starts way before you get an Open Date, CR or Max Out. Successful reentry is about stepping up everyday, where you are and putting something under the cap so that when you get out you have the tools needed to succeed. Know that success is a process in whatever you do, inside or outside, and you need to be equipped for the sometimes rocky roads ahead. That process though starts with you.

Reentry is not about getting out, but about staying out and giving something back like those who have given unto you. It starts with recognizing both your strengths and weaknesses but, more importantly, addressing those issues that lead to incarceration no matter what they may have been. To not get to the heart of your problem(s) is to set yourself up for the problem to be-

"Reentry is not about getting out, but about staying out and giving something back like those who have given unto you."

come a 'recurring' one, and something you will have to battle or contend with for years to come. Remember, wherever you go you take you with you. This stuff is not rocket science, but it is one of the major things we take for granted and the one thing that keeps the recidivism rate as high as it is.

For all the obvious faults of DOCS, one thing is for certain: it will provide you with the fundamental skills to become employable in any number of areas; however, if you

fail to really apply yourself, then you're the one to blame. If you do not take advantage of acquiring your GED or other educational opportunities then you're the one to blame. If you keep doing, saying and being

around the wrong people, places and things, then again you're the one to blame. The reality is that no one owes you anything, but that you owe it to yourself to come out of there better equipped mentally, physically and spiritually to deal with life on life's terms.

The time for blaming others, waiting on others or making excuses is over. The time is now to "Man Up" (Woman Up, too), so that when you reenter society you are as ready as you can be for the challenges that lie ahead—and there will be challenges for everyone! The saying goes something like this: "if a person wants to do something he or she will find a way, if not he or she will find an excuse." What's your excuse...?

I am happy to tell you that no longer is "reentry" just a buzzword. It has now, at least in New York, become a movement with millions of dollars being allocated to fund and invest into the type of services and supports one needs when released.

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Criminal Justice According to the NYS Assembly Committee on Correction

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Higher Education in Prison

Studies have consistently found that the higher the level of education attained, the more likely a formerly incarcerated person will be able to obtain gainful and stable employment, and the less likely he or she will be to engage in future criminal activity.

The benefits of post-secondary correctional education have been well documented. Most recently, the New York State Commission on Sentencing Reform recently reported that post-secondary correctional education programs have been shown to reduce recidivism by up to 40% and the Commission recommended that more post-secondary educational opportunities be made available to people in prison.

Expungement of Criminal Records

Thousands of New Yorkers currently must deal with the stigma associated with having a criminal record for the rest of their lives as they seek employment and housing and strive to become productive members of society — even after they have fully paid their debt to society and, in many cases, lived law-abiding lives for many years after completion of their sentences.... Recognizing the wisdom of assisting individuals with criminal records who are qualified and not a threat to public safety to obtain employment and housing, New York recently enacted a conditional sealing provision for certain people convicted of drug offenses as part of the Rockefeller Reform legislation. The law now authorizes courts to conditionally seal records of certain drug, marijuana and other lower-level, non-violent crimes after the individual has successfully completed a judicial diversion program

or a similar treatment program. Expansion of this legislation is necessary to allow more people convicted of nonviolent offenses who have completed appropriate treatment and/or remained crime free an opportunity to rebuild their lives without the stigma of a criminal record.

Expansion of Merit Time and Work Release

Merit time affords people in prison with the ability to earn a reduction of their sentence after completing significant programming and maintaining a positive disciplinary record. Current law only allows people in prison with certain nonviolent convictions to earn merit time.

However, the availability of merit time allowance motivates inmates to complete necessary programming and maintain a positive disciplinary record during incarceration. The program, in fact, reduces prison violence and studies show that people granted merit time and released early have lower recidivism rates. Further, DOCS estimates that since its inception in 1997, the merit time program has resulted in a savings of \$369 million. Therefore, during the 2010 session, the Committee on Correction intends to advance legislation to expand the availability of merit time.

Voting Notification and Registration

For the last three years the Assembly has passed legislation to enact the Voting Rights Notification and Registration Act (A.2266) and help to clear up the confusion that surrounds the eligibility of persons con-

victed of a felony to vote. Current law prohibits a person from voting while he or she is in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony. Once the person has completed his or her maximum sentence of imprisonment or has been discharged from parole, his or her right to vote is automatically restored. The Voting Rights Notification and Registration Act would require persons imprisoned for a felony to be notified of their eligibility to vote upon release from incarceration. Further, the bill will require the Department of Correctional Services and the Division of Parole to notify the state Board of Elections once per month

regarding persons who have reached their maximum sentence of imprisonment or been discharged from parole to ensure that there are no barriers to registration.

The felony disenfranchisement laws in New York have weakened the voice of minority communities throughout the state and hindered successful reentry by individuals coming out of prison. Increasing voter participation by people coming out of the criminal justice system gives them a voice and a stake in the community. The right to vote — to be empowered and to have a voice in the democratic process — is not only a fundamental civil and human right, it also is critical to an individual's successful reintegration into the community. Therefore, the Committee on Correction will continue to work with the Election Committee to advance this important piece of legislation.

“The success of people returning from incarceration stands to benefit our entire community while failure perpetuates a cycle of recidivism and incarceration.”



Medical Parole in New York State

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Times article (1/30/10), so the savings projected by the expansion implies an expectation, of some sort, that about thirteen of the newly eligible would actually be granted medical parole.

The *Times* goes on to say that medical parole, which has been enacted, expanded or streamlined in a dozen states in the past couple of years, has still had minimal impact, that is, not many people are actually getting out on it.

Thirty-nine states have medical parole. However, in NY, not one prisoner who became eligible under the expansion last April actually got approved for medical parole. The *Times* says experts believe it is still the fear that the medically paroled person will still commit further crimes. Ironically, more than ten thousand other prisoners are released every year without ever seeing a parole board, in stark contrast

“NYS is on the right track with expanding medical parole for violent felons, but to expand it and then deny it to everyone who applies for it, that sure sounds like a crime.”

to these very same, alleged, fears. Most readers know that NYS has reported that A1VF recidivism rates are down to 1.6%, from a long time standing of 3% and, with the possible exception of female offenders, A1VFs have, and have always had

the lowest rates of recidivism of any class of offender in NYS. It has been said that fear is often irrational, and not necessarily

based on reality.

Applications for medical parole did go up when the expansion went into effect. In 2008 there were 66 prisoners in NYS who applied for medical parole. After the change in law, in 2009 there were 202 applications, so one presumes that the big jump in applications came from those prisoners who were not eligible to apply before. In 2009, seven prisoners were actually granted medical

parole, but all seven were eligible under the old law, that is, they hadn't been convicted of an A1, man 1 or sex offender offense. Since 1992, a total of 364 prisoners have been released on medical parole. The *Times* reports that in NY history, three prisoners who had been released on medical parole did wind up back in prison, although not for any violent offenses. The article did not specify what it was that they were back in prison for.

The *Times* states that since 2005, 16 prisoners have died in NYS while waiting for parole to determine their fate, presumably for medical parole because, sadly, more than 16 parole eligible A1VF have died in the past two years alone while also waiting for parole to determine their fate. NYS is on the right track with expanding medical parole for violent felons, but to expand it and then deny it to everyone who applies for it, that sure sounds like a crime.



It's Been a Year

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Yet, none of that will make any difference if you are not equipped and prepared to take advantage of the huge opportunities that are now in place. As God is my judge, you have got to understand that reentry starts and ends with you. Please begin now to invest in yourself and the future by diligently preparing for your release. You should be doing something daily that is an investment in your future, be it reading, studying, programming, praying or planning. Take stock of the people and things you have at your

disposal and begin to utilize them in ways that will make your transition as smooth, seamless and successful as possible.

In the next edition I will lay out for you some of the new and innovative programs and strategies that are in place to assist you upon release. On that note, I'd like to give a good ol' shout out to Denise O'Donnell, Deputy Director of Public Safety at the Division for Criminal Justice Services, and CEO (The Center For Employment Opportunities) for their very real investment in and

support of reentry and our futures. More on that next time... Til then, know that the time is now to break the insidious cycle of recidivism and regain our rightful place in society. "A man is not finished when he is defeated. He is finished when he quits." (Galatians 6:9) To God be the Glory!

Jerome Wright



OPINION Life without Parole — The Other Death Penalty?

I am one of hundreds of men in the New York State prison system who is serving a sentence of “Life Without the Possibility of Parole” (LWOP). As you read I ask that you ponder the following questions with me. *Is there any logic or meaningful purpose in sentencing anyone to LWOP?* You be the judge...

New York State enacted LWOP along with the death penalty, which has since been deemed unconstitutional. LWOP guarantees that those serving these sentences will spend the remaining years of their lives confined to a correctional setting (Max A prison). For the purpose of my argument I will present a scenario that will answer the earlier question, “Is there any logic or meaningful purpose in sentencing a person to LWOP?” This question will be posed within the context of society (community), the victim’s family, and lastly the offender.

Based on various studies, there is no direct correlation between the death penalty/LWOP and the reduction of crime, in this case murder. At the time of this writing the prison population is declining in New York State. DOCS has closed facilities due to lack of occupancy and budget. Historically, when draconian legislation has been enacted (death penalty/LWOP, murder rates have went up. As stated above, there is no correlation between the safety of society/community and tough on crime laws. Is this a logical answer from the context of society/community? No, it only serves to burden citizens with higher taxes in order to house those serving these life sentences.

For argument’s sake, a 25-year-old male with a life expectancy of 80 years serving LWOP would cost the following -- \$30,000 per year x 55 =

\$1.7 million. This estimate will be higher when we include expenses associated with aging. This number will grow; it will cost society billions of dollars. These dollars could be better spent elsewhere (schools, Medicare, building communities). Do you see the logic yet?

Let us move to the victim’s family. *Is there any emotional closure or healing for the victim’s family by sentencing a person to LWOP for murdering their loved one?* Most times family members only see the offender(s) in newspaper photos, in the courtroom during the trial and at sentencing. There isn’t any closure or emotional healing when most times family members only see the back of the accusers’ head. After sentencing the victim’s family will never see the

individual(s) again. So, the wound, pain, lost, and other feelings never heal. They’re just buried in time only to be resurrected on special occasions, birthdays, holidays, etc. Is there any healing or logic here for the victim’s family, because the person responsible is serving LWOP? Once again, the answer is no.

There are documented reports that support closure and healing when offenders and victims’ family members come face to face. When these two sides engage in a dialogue surrounded by the principles of a “truth & reconciliation” model, healing occurs, emotional stability returns to the lives of the victim’s family. Is the approach logical? I would say yes. After all, it is about the victims’ family; they are the ones who have lost the most. Often-

times the media and overzealous court systems focus on winning and keeping scores. No one wins in this situation, especially the families.

Lastly, we have the offender. What does this mean to the offender who has been sentenced to LWOP? Once an individual has filed his or her last appeal and it has been denied, now its about coming to terms with some facts. Coming to terms means accepting the fact that you will never again have the freedom to live outside of a correctional facility. Your daily activities will be chosen for you. You will be told when, what and where to eat, etc. ... If you decide to adjust to prison life and be productive, this can be rather challenging.

As for myself, I wanted to (still do) address many of the issues that led me to prison, e.g., anger, addiction, and criminal thinking, to name a few. I enrolled in the only anger

management program that is recognized by DOCS, which is A.R.T. (Anger Replacement Training). A.R.T. is a program that is 12 weeks long and then you graduate. Addiction, I would enroll in R.S.A.T. (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment). After 6-9 months you graduate, but unless you were convicted of drugs, its not offered to you. I have always found these programs somewhat ridiculous. Why? You have men and women who have anger and substance abuse problems that extend 20, 30, 40, and some 50 years, and these 12-week and 6-moth programs are seen as a cure. For a person like myself serving LWOP, what will these programs do for me? After graduation there is nothing else to do. We need to find a logical answer to the ques-

“There are documented reports that support closure and healing when offenders and victims’ family members come face to face.”

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Good News: Expansion of Limited Credit Time Allowance

The 6-month Limited Credit Time Allowance (LCTA) has been amended, effective February 17, 2010, to include A1 violent felons and persistent violent felons who've already been to the board. The net effect of that would seem to be that if one of these newly eligible were to get LCTA, it would render the last hit as if it were 18 months rather than 24 months. Additionally, it would come with the approval from the LCTA Review Committee that one's disciplinary record is good enough to get LCTA.

The text of the memorandum regarding this change states in pertinent part: "Eligible A-1 or persistent offender inmates serving an indeterminate sentence with a life term maximum whose LCTA dates are in the past and have previously appeared before the Parole Board will be considered reviewable when there is no recommended loss of good time sanctions within the five (5) years prior to the present or future review date, rather than within the five years prior to their LCTA date."

Also, "A previously unforeseen circumstance has led to the determination that a modification to the loss of good time criteria is warranted for some inmates. Inmates with

maximum life terms, LCTA dates in the past and no recent (within 5 years) recommended loss of good time sanctions, will now appear on the list and be allowed to apply. To implement this change, the department's computer system will screen all inmates previously determined to be not reviewable based upon loss of good time criteria. Any inmate who meets the above criteria will have their name added to the list. Additionally, eligible inmates with maximum life terms will become reviewable and have their name added to the list upon completion of five (5) years without receiving a recommended loss of good time. In all cases, a separate review by the facility LCTA committee will still be required."

The other change is that screening for LCTA will no longer be done until a person has been in custody for two years. The reason for this is that all of the programmatic criteria to get LCTA takes two years to obtain.

To qualify for LCTA review, one

must have achieved one of the following significant programmatic accomplishments: obtained an associates degree during this period of incarceration, or a masters degree, or a Certificate from the Department of Labor, or performed two years as an IPA or hospice worker, or in the Puppies Behind Bars program.

The memo does not say when exactly one would show up on the list to apply. Currently, all other persons eligible for LCTA appear on the list and receive an application 13 months before their earliest release date giving a

couple months to do the application and get reviewed, get scheduled to see parole six months earlier than they would have, and hopefully make it out six months earlier. Here it does not say exactly when an already board eligible A1 or persistent would show up on the list and while we can do the math and assume the same schedule, one can never assume anything with DOCS, so it might be best to ask one's counselor when to expect to be on the list if you think you qualify.

"The 6-month Limited Credit Time Allowance...has been amended... to include A1 violent felons and persistent violent felons who've already been to the board."



The Other Death Penalty?

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tions presented here as they relate to LWOP, the other death penalty.

Darrell Powell



Family Coordinators Wanted

CPR is looking for individuals who visit a prison at least once a month to serve as a Family Coordinator. Their responsibility will be to disseminate information about CPR to visitors and people in prison. These persons will be compensated by receiving free membership to CPR for them and their family member in prison for as long as they serve as a Coordinator. They will also receive

a free copy our newly revised Parole Preparation Manual and assistance with preparing a parole packet for their loved one when he or she appears before the parole board.

If interested, please contact Mark McPhee or James Rivers at 718-786-4174 or email us at parolecpr@yahoo.com.



Letter to the Editor — “Wake Up New York!”

Dear Concerned Citizens/Taxpayers:

Are you aware of the fact that...

...every New York City and New York State agency has currently implemented a hiring freeze? Police officers, firefighters, teachers and nurses are actually about to start being laid off at an alarming rate because the NYC and NYS agencies in question simply do not have the money in their budgets to cover their salaries. Our state's deficit has placed us all in a dire financial strait. However, the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) appears to be a thriving industry because it is the only agency still hiring correction officers (COs). How is this possible?

This is occurring at a time when the state has already closed three prison camps and seven prison annexes, and is seriously considering closing at least four more within the next 12 months. So you're probably wondering: where are the COs who worked at the now closed facilities? Well, the majority of them from the “annexes” were simply transferred over to their respective “main” facilities. Others were simply transferred to different

facilities. And a very small percentage has actually retired. So they were basically shuffled throughout the state. Therefore, the last thing the state has is a shortage of COs.

According to both state and local law agencies, “crime is down.” Plus, here's some interesting data for you to consider. In 2008, DOCS released 29,135 inmates from prison. Of those, parole released 11,265; conditional releases were 11,352; maximum expiration releases were 4,645; and the remaining 1,873 went to alternative programs or “other.”

Furthermore, in 2009, the total admissions to DOCS were approximately 21,000 individuals, of whom 14,041 were new court commitments and 6,393 were parole violators. Parole violators were down 25.5% from 2008. The current prison population is 58,565 (down from approximately 71,600 in 1999). DOCS' current annual budget is approximately \$3 billion (yes, with a “B”), up from last year's \$2.5 billion. It is the most expensive budget in the state. The Division of Parole's budget is an additional \$189 million.

The bottom line: there are ten less facilities; and approximately 8,135 less prisoners than there were in 2009; plus the prison system still has more than 5,000 empty beds in the 69 prisons. So why did the budget increase \$500 million? Could the State's insistence on hiring new COs have anything to do with said increase? (The equivalent of approximately 7,250 employees.) The prison industrial complex is to rural New York what public assistance is to NYC, only on a more lavish level. Am I the only one who sees this misappropriation of taxpayers' funds? If not, then why is no one questioning or investigating this particular matter? What is Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's position in regards to this blatant corruption? The time has finally arrived to actually receive honest answers to these pertinent questions.

Wake up, New York!

M. Hattley
A NYS Prison Lifer



Proposed Prison Closures

- Moriah Shock Incarceration Facility
- Ogdensburg Correctional Facility
- Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility
- Butler Correctional Facility (minimum security portion)

Testimony of Brian Fischer, Commissioner New York State Department of Correctional Services Before Joint Legislative Fiscal Committees, February 8, 2010.

Design Request for Submissions — Save Our Streets (S.O.S) Crown Heights

Stop Shooting. Start Living.

The Crown Heights Community Mediation Center is asking artists to assist us in the creation of a unique logo that represents our newest anti-violence initiative, Save Our Streets Crown Heights (S.O.S. Crown Heights). Use of the logo will be widespread. Additional requests for design submissions are forthcoming in an effort to create a public education campaign emphasizing the strong message that shooting and killing are not acceptable in Crown Heights.

Requirements:

The ideal design will appeal to a broad group of Crown Heights residents including individuals affiliated with gangs, faith-based leaders, seniors, and young people.

Lettering should be clear and legible.

If you choose to use colors, they can be black and orange or black, white and orange.

The logo needs to be clear in black and white as well as in color since many times we will not have access to a color printer.

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New Reports Find Trend in Reform Policies, Prison Downsizing

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tive to reduce parole revocations and enhance employment, housing, and treatment services for people leaving prison.

New Jersey – Increased parole releases by adopting risk assessment instruments and utilizing day reporting centers and electronic monitoring.

New York – Scaled back harsh drug penalties, established Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison programs, and applied “merit time” credits to speed up parole consideration.

“The State of Sentencing 2009: Developments in Policy and Practice, by Nicole D. Porter, highlights reforms in at least 19 states that hold the potential of further prison population reductions. Key among these reforms are:

Three states – Minnesota, New York, and Rhode Island – significantly scaled back the scope of mandatory sentencing laws for certain drug offenses.

Seven states increased the proportion of “good time” credits to be earned in prison to expedite parole eligibility.

Four states, Arkansas, Illinois, Nebraska and New Jersey – established oversight committees to examine sentencing policies, prison overcrowding and reentry services.

Figures recently released by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics document a record prison and jail population of 2.3 million as of 2008, but also indicate that the population in state prisons is stabilizing. Overall, 20 states achieved at least modest reductions in their prison populations between 2007 and 2008.

Access the reports at www.sentencingproject.org.



CPR to do parole board appeals

Claudette Spencer-Nurse, an attorney and one of the founders of CPR, will do parole board appeals.

The fees are as follow:

Administrative Appeal — \$1500

Article 78 — \$3500

Administrative Appeal & Article 78 — \$4000.

Checks should be made out to the **Coalition for Parole Restoration**.



S.O.S. Crown Heights

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The design should look good both on extra large t-shirt sizes and on small caps.

We are unable to use symbols that are associated with local gangs.

Do not use the image of a gun.

Please incorporate our slogan, “Stop Shooting. Start Living,” into your overall design.

CPR’s Incarcerated Family Support Group

Do you have questions about visitation, tickets, appeals? Is your loved one going to the parole board and needs assistance preparing or do you just need someone to talk to about having a loved one in prison?

Come to the **Incarcerated Family Support Group** sponsored by the **Coalition for Parole Restoration**.

Date: The Second Tuesday of every month

Place: North Star Fund

520 8th Avenue (bet. 36th and 37th Aves)
Manhattan

Time: 6-8 pm

For further information, contact **CPR** at 718-786-4174 or parolecpr@yahoo.com or visit us on Facebook.



For more information:

Contact Amy Ellenbogen, Project Director, Crown Heights Mediation Center, 718-773-6886; www.crownheightsmediationcenter.blogspot.com

Crown Heights Mediation Center

256 Kingston Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11213



CPR'S MISSION STATEMENT

The Coalition for Parole Restoration is a broad-based grassroots organization created to inform, organize and bring to light all aspects of the prison industrial complex as it affects our communities, families, people in prison and formerly incarcerated persons.

Our mission is two-fold: (1) to assist people in prison in obtaining parole release and (2) to assist formerly incarcerated persons and their families with transition and re-entry.

COALITION FOR PAROLE RESTORATION

POST OFFICE BOX 1379

NEW YORK, NY 10013-0877

718-786-4174

www.parolecpr.org

Membership & Dues Structure

* FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00 PER YEAR (PERSON IN PRISON INCLUDED)

* PERSON IN PRISON MEMBERSHIP - \$2.00 PER YEAR

* BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP – MORE THAN \$100 PER YEAR

YEAR WILL BEGIN IN THE MONTH THAT THE MEMBERSHIP DUES IS RECEIVED AND END IN THE SAME MONTH THE FOLLOWING YEAR

(STAMPS ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED TO PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES)

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES YOU TO RECEIVE CPR'S NEWSLETTER, WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR, AND NOTICE OF ALL CPR-SPONSORED MEETINGS, RALLIES AND EVENTS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, POEM, ETC. TO THE NEWSLETTER, YOU SHOULD SEND IT BY EMAIL OR U.S. MAIL BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE MONTH IN WHICH THE NEWSLETTER IS BEING PRINTED. SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE 750 WORDS OR LESS AND WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT ANYTHING APPEARING IN THE NEWSLETTER. ALL WORKS MUST BE ORIGINAL. WE WILL NOT PUBLISH ANYTHING WITHOUT THE PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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