

Message from the Chair – March 14, 2010

Welcome to the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision. I hope you find your visit to our website informative and that you remain interested in the Board's work.

As the Board completes the first quarter of 2010, I am pleased to be able to report on several key accomplishments:

- New Executive Director Hired. In January, Jeremiah Stromberg joined the Board as its new Executive Director. Previously, Jeremiah worked as a manager for the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. He brings over 10 years of public safety field and management experience to the position of the agency's top administrator.
- New Parole Deferral Rules Implemented. In 2009, the Legislature authorized the Board to defer certain types of parole hearings from two years to ten years. After meeting with a group of community stakeholders to obtain their input, the Board has implemented a temporary rule. The text of the rule is available at http://www.oregon.gov/BOPPPS/docs/Rules/Temp255_62.pdf. The Board plans to make the rule permanent in May after a period of public comment and hearings if necessary.
- Victim Participation Legislation. During February's legislative session, the Board worked with other criminal justice stakeholders on HB 3634, which ensures that crime victims continue to be notified of parole hearings, have access to all critical information that will be utilized in the hearing, and have a meaningful role in the hearing.

As always, I am grateful for the assistance of Board staff and community partners who helped us on these projects.

Looking Forward: Effective Sanctioning

This agency oversees the majority of Oregon's adult population as it tries to adjust to life after imprisonment. Consequently, we are uniquely situated to learn whether particular practices, philosophies, and techniques designed to keep people from re-offending are effective on a statewide, regional, or local basis.

The overall crime rate is down nationally, and Oregon is no exception. We have seen a significant decline in both person and property crimes. A number of theories have been put forward to explain the downward trend, with no single explanation being universally embraced. Even with this downturn statewide, the number of warrants, sanctions, and revocations issued by the Board has remained fairly consistent over the last biennium. The Board has begun to look critically at those numbers to explore how they reflect sanctioning philosophy and practice throughout Oregon. Ultimately, we are seeking a correlation between our statistics, effective criminal justice policy, meaningful sanctions, and positive public safety results.

I will continue to report back on our progress in future messages.



Aaron Felton
Chairperson, Board of Parole
and Post-Prison Supervision