

1 NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

2 BOARD OF PAROLE

3 \*\*\*\*\*

4 Business Meeting

5 (Public Session)

6 April 24, 2023

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- 8 PRESENT: Chairman Darryl C. Towns
- 9 Commissioner Joseph P. Crangle\*
- 10 Commissioner Otis Cruse
- 11 Commissioner Tana Agostini
- 12 Commissioner Erik Berliner
- 13 Commissioner Caryne Demosthenes\*\*
- 14 Commissioner Tyece Drake
- 15 Commissioner Charles Davis
- 16 Commissioner Michael Corley
- 17 Commissioner Carlton Mitchell
- 18 Commissioner Elsie Segarra
- 19 Kathleen Kiley, Esq., Board of Parole Counsel
- 20 Lorraine V. Morse, Administrative Specialist
- 21 Chelsea Vizvary, Special Assistant to the
- 22 Chairman
- 23 Dannielle Hille, Executive Assistant to the
- 24 Board of Parole
- 25 Laura Colucci, Videographer

\*Appearing remotely from Buffalo

\*\*Appearing remotely from NYC

1                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Good afternoon,  
2                   Commissioners. Before calling this meeting to  
3                   order, I would like to acknowledge the board members  
4                   who are joining from the Buffalo and Manhattan  
5                   community supervision area offices, and from here at  
6                   the Department of Corrections Albany Training  
7                   Academy. I'd like to ask you all to stand and join  
8                   me for the Pledge of Allegiance.

9                   (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

10                  CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Thank you all.  
11                  You may be seated. This meeting will come to order.  
12                  This is the April 2023 meeting of the New York State  
13                  Board of Parole. The time is now 1:05 on  
14                  April 24th. I will now call the roll. Commissioner  
15                  Crangle? Commissioner Crangle?

16                  COMMISSIONER J. CRANGLE: Your audio  
17                  is in and out.

18                  CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Got it.  
19                  Commissioner Crangle?

20                  COMMISSIONER J. CRANGLE: Present.

21                  CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Just to hear your  
22                  verbal yes.

23                  COMMISSIONER J. CRANGLE: Yes.

24                  CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Okay. Coppola is  
25                  excused. Commissioner Cruse?

1 COMMISSIONER O. CRUSE: Present.  
2 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner  
3 Agostini?  
4 COMMISSIONER T. AGOSTINI: Present.  
5 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner  
6 Berliner?  
7 COMMISSIONER E. BERLINER: Present.  
8 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner  
9 Drake?  
10 COMMISSIONER T. DRAKE: Present.  
11 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner  
12 Demosthenes?  
13 COMMISSIONER C. DEMOSTHENES: Yes.  
14 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner  
15 Davis?  
16 COMMISSIONER C. DAVIS: Present.  
17 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner  
18 Corley? Commissioner Lee is excused. Commissioner  
19 Samuels? Commissioner Mitchell?  
20 COMMISSIONER C. MITCHELL: Present.  
21 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner  
22 Segarra?  
23 COMMISSIONER E. SEGARRA: Present.  
24 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: A quorum has been  
25 established for the purposes of conducting business.

1 Also joining us are the Board of Parole staff.

2 Kathy Kiley?

3 ATTY. KATHLEEN KILEY: Present.

4 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Dannielle Hille?

5 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Hille.

6 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Hille.

7 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Present.

8 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Anthony

9 D'Ambrosio?

10 COURT REPORTER: Present.

11 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Lorraine Morse?

12 MS. LORRAINE MORSE: Present.

13 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Chelsea Vizvary?

14 MS. CHELSEA VIZVARY: Present.

15 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: And Laura Colucci.

16 Moving on to the agenda. I would again like to ask

17 you to join me at this time in a moment of silence.

18 (Whereupon, a moment of silence was held.)

19 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Thank you. I

20 would like to acknowledge any members of the public

21 joining us from the three locations along with any

22 members who have taken the time to watch the

23 recorded version of this meeting. Are there any

24 members of the public in Buffalo?

25 COMMISSIONER J. CRANGLE: No.

1                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Any members of the  
2 public in Manhattan?

3                   COMMISSIONER C. DEMOSTHENES: No.

4                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: And I see none  
5 here in Albany. Just a reminder, a person,  
6 attendees, can observe only, participation is not  
7 allowed at our public meetings. Moving on. You all  
8 have received a copy of the March 6th Business Board  
9 Meeting Minutes. Please take a moment to review  
10 these minutes for accuracy. At this time, I'd  
11 accept a motion to accept the minutes.

12                   COMMISSIONER C. MITCHELL: So moved.

13                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Do I hear a  
14 second?

15                   COMMISSIONER O. CRUSE: Second.

16                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: The movement  
17 seconded that the March 6th, 2023, Business Meeting  
18 Minutes be adopted as presented. Is there any  
19 debate? Having heard no request for debate, those  
20 in favor say aye.

21                   (All Commissioners respond aye.)

22                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Those opposed say  
23 no. Any absentia? The ayes have it, the motion is  
24 carried. Thank you. Moving on to old business. At  
25 this time, there's no -- do we have any old business

1 to discuss?

2 ATTY. KATHLEEN KILEY: No.

3 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: At this time,  
4 there is no new business to discuss.

5 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Sorry. It  
6 should say old business, there's no old business.

7 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: There's no old  
8 business to discuss. Okay. Now we'll move to new  
9 business.

10 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: The board's  
12 executive assistant will discuss procedural changes  
13 as they relate to the release subject Article 10  
14 Mental Hygiene Law. Dannielle.

15 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: So, over the  
16 last couple of months, you guys can pass those down,  
17 sorry, I didn't get a chance to hand them all out to  
18 you. Over the last couple of months we've been in  
19 discussions with the Office of Mental Health, they  
20 reached out to us with concern that the six weeks  
21 that are generally provided for a release was not  
22 long enough for them to complete the Article 10  
23 review. After multiple discussions with both OMH  
24 and the AG's office, along with our partnership with  
25 DOCCS, the decision was made to move the open date

1 out 120 days for only the open dates, only the  
2 reappearance open dates that are subject to Article  
3 10 review. So, going forward, the facilities are  
4 going to identify those and they're going to let you  
5 know on the calendar that those -- that those  
6 individuals are subject to Article 10 review, and  
7 instead of a six week release date, they'll get  
8 120 days out from the date of your decision. So,  
9 because of that, the Commissioner's worksheet has  
10 changed, it now includes a checkbox for Article 10.  
11 It also, in that, we also moved some stuff around,  
12 but the major change is going to be the Article 10,  
13 and then the second sheet I gave you is a memorandum  
14 that will go to any incarcerated individual  
15 receiving 120 day open date, which will explain to  
16 them in more detail the reason for this. Does  
17 anyone have any questions?

18 COMMISSIONER T. AGOSTINI: So, it's  
19 just important to note that embedded in the language  
20 is or earlier, so the or earlier is not optional for  
21 the reappearance open dates.

22 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Correct. So,  
23 OMH comes back, Office of Mental Health comes back  
24 and says, we've done our review, this guy is not  
25 appropriate, then that individual can process for

1 release at that time.

2 COMMISSIONER E. BERLINER: When does  
3 this go into effect?

4 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: May 1st. So,  
5 yes, next week.

6 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Any other  
7 questions, discussion?

8 COMMISSIONER T. DRAKE: So, at the  
9 beginning of the board, they'll let us know which  
10 person will be, okay, it'll be on our, you know, our  
11 comp sheet and stuff like that?

12 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Yes, yes, so the  
13 facility will identify those that require an Article  
14 10 review.

15 COMMISSIONER C. DAVIS: And, Kathy,  
16 can we have your impression on this new provision?

17 ATTY. KATHLEEN KILEY: I was part of  
18 some of the discussions, and, yes.

19 COMMISSIONER C. DAVIS: And you're in  
20 support because of?

21 ATTY. KATHLEEN KILEY: It is 120 days  
22 or earlier. So, the fact is, it's for public safety  
23 purposes, just to make sure that the analysis is  
24 done properly, and yet, also to make sure that the  
25 individual is released in a timely manner, so...



1 COMMISSIONER C. DAVIS: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: And it's agreed  
3 that it will be re-visited in six months.

4 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER T. DRAKE: Or earlier is  
6 already implied?

7 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER T. DRAKE: We don't have  
9 to actually put that...

10 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Correct, anyone  
11 with an Article 10 hold, it's already implied that  
12 if they're green lighted, they're not going to be  
13 held for Article 10 proceedings, then as soon as  
14 their community preparation is done, they can be  
15 released.

16 COMMISSIONER C. DAVIS: To support  
17 public safety.

18 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Any further  
19 discussion? We'll move on to correspondences,  
20 announcements, and invitations. We've been invited  
21 to participate in the New York Corrections Youth  
22 Services Association Region 4 conference which will  
23 be held May 26 at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel.  
24 Pre-registration has started and registration ends  
25 May 10th. There are a number of workshops and a

1 great networking opportunity. If anyone is  
2 interested, we will share it with you, but I just  
3 wanted to point it out. We also are in receipt of a  
4 couple of letters from parolees. One, dear Parole  
5 Commissioners Segarra, Demosthenes, and Davis, I am  
6 writing you to say thank you for granting me parole  
7 and I won't let you down. I promise you that when I  
8 do my open mic night at RTA, I will invite you all  
9 to come see me perform. I know it is hard out  
10 there, but I will give my all in everything I do.  
11 Once again, I truly want to thank you for giving me  
12 a last chance at life so I can make a difference.  
13 I'll see you at RTA opening night. And that was  
14 from Joseph Occhione. Then from Kenneth Strouse  
15 (Phonetic), to Commissioners Corley, Cruse, and  
16 Davis. I've been meaning to write before this, but  
17 I had to first find out your names, which I couldn't  
18 remember from your instructions at my hearing on  
19 November 15th. Having them know that I want -- want  
20 soon -- if ever -- I won't soon ever forget them. I  
21 never again in this life attempted to enter into  
22 vice (sic), commit a crime, or to act dishonestly in  
23 any way. I'll remember your names as a countercheck  
24 on my bad tendencies they will be, such as my  
25 gratitude, and I will demonstrate my gratitude by

1 going forward committed to doing right. You gave me  
2 my life back which I no wise deserve. Thank you,  
3 Kenneth Strouse. I wanted to share those. Having  
4 concluded all scheduled business, I'll entertain a  
5 motion to adjourn the public portion of our meeting  
6 today.

7 COMMISSIONER T. AGOSTINI: I move that  
8 we adjourn the public portion of our meeting today.

9 COMMISSIONER E. BERLINER: I second.

10 COMMISSIONER T. DRAKE: I second.

11 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Seconded. It's  
12 been moved and seconded. Also, I'd like to note  
13 that we've been joined by Commissioner Corley, and  
14 it's been moved and seconded that we conclude the  
15 public portion and enter into executive session. Do  
16 we need debate? Having heard none, all those  
17 opposed say no -- those in favor say aye?

18 (All Commissioners respond aye.)

19 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Those opposed say  
20 no. Any abstain? The ayes have it, the motion is  
21 carried, the public meeting is adjourned at 1:17.  
22 All right. Thank you all for joining us, we'll move  
23 forward.

24 (Whereupon, the Public Session of the Board of  
25 Parole Business Meeting was then concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Tony D'Ambrosio, a *Certified Shorthand Reporter*, hereby certify that the proceeding in the above matter was taken by me stenographically and then transcribed to the best of my ability.

Tony Dambrosio

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Tony D'Ambrosio, C.S.R.