

1 NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

2 BOARD OF PAROLE

3 \*\*\*\*\*

4 Business Meeting

5 (Public Session)

6 July 24, 2023

7 \*\*\*\*\*

8 PRESENT: Chairman Darryl C. Towns  
 9 Commissioner Joseph P. Crangle\*  
 10 Commissioner Marc Coppola\*  
 11 Commissioner Tana Agostini  
 12 Commissioner Erik Berliner  
 13 Commissioner Tyece Drake  
 14 Commissioner Charles Davis  
 15 Commissioner Chanwoo Lee\*  
 16 Commissioner Erin McCabe  
 17 Commissioner Ana M. Enright

18 Kathleen Kiley, Esq., Board of Parole Counsel

19 Lorraine V. Morse, Administrative Specialist

20 Chelsea Vizvary, Special Assistant to the  
21 Chairwoman

22 Dannielle Hille, Executive Assistant to the  
23 Board of Parole

24 Issabella Hussey, Intern

25 \*Appearing remotely from Buffalo

1                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: All right. Good  
2 afternoon, Commissioners. Before calling this  
3 meeting to order, I would like to acknowledge the  
4 board members that are joining from the Buffalo  
5 Community Supervision area office and here in the  
6 Department of Corrections and Community Supervision  
7 Albany Training Academy. At this time, I invite you  
8 all to stand and join me in the pledge of  
9 allegiance.

10                   (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

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

16                   COMMISSIONER J. CRANGLE: Present in  
17 Buffalo.

18                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner  
19 Coppola.

20                   COMMISSIONER M. COPPOLA: Present in  
21 Buffalo.

22                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner  
23 Agostini.

24                   COMMISSIONER T. AGOSTINI: Present.

25                   CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Commissioner



1 MS. DANNIELLE HILLE: Present.

2 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Anthony

3 D'Ambrosio.

4 COURT REPORTER: Present.

5 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Lorraine Morse.

6 MS. LORRAINE MORSE: Present.

7 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Chelsea Vizvary.

8 MS. CHELSEA VIZVARY: Present.

9 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Moving onto the  
10 agenda. I would like to ask you to join me at this  
11 time in a moment of silence.

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

13 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Thank you. I  
14 would like to acknowledge any members of the public  
15 joining us in person at the two locations along with  
16 any members that have taken the time to watch the  
17 recorded version of this meeting. Are there members  
18 of the public in Buffalo?

19 COMMISSIONER M. COPPOLA: No, nobody  
20 is here other than us.

21 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Okay. And none  
22 here. Just remind the in person attendees can  
23 observe only, participation is not allowed at our  
24 public meetings. Moving on. You all have received  
25 a copy of the June 12th, 2023, business board

1 meeting minutes. Please take a moment and review  
2 these minutes for accuracy. I'll entertain a motion  
3 to accept the minutes at this time.

4 COMMISSIONER T. AGOSTINI: Make a  
5 motion to accept the minutes as presented.

6 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Thank you,  
7 Commissioner Agostini. Do I hear a second?

8 COMMISSIONER E. BERLINER: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Motion has been  
10 properly forwarded and seconded. Are you ready to  
11 vote for the discussion? A vote has been moved and  
12 seconded. The minutes will be adopted as presented.  
13 All in favor, aye.

14 (All Commissioners respond aye.)

15 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: All opposed?  
16 Abstentions? The ayes have it, the motion is  
17 carried. Moving on to old business. At this time,  
18 there is no old business to discuss. We will now  
19 move on to new business. At this time, there is no  
20 new business to discuss. Moving on to  
21 correspondences and announcements. I think that we  
22 have an announcement of four new Commissioners, two  
23 are here with us.

24 Ana Enright. Commissioner Enright  
25 joined the board in 2023. She was previously the

1 Deputy Commissioner for Community Supervision, where  
2 she provided executive leadership over statewide  
3 parole and re-entry operations. A graduate of John  
4 Jay College of Criminal Justice, she has spent her  
5 entire career in the human services field, beginning  
6 with the New York City Criminal Justice Agency as a  
7 pre-trial associate, followed by the New York City  
8 Department of Probation where she served as a  
9 probation officer. She later joined the New York  
10 State Division of Parole where she served in the  
11 titles of parole officer, senior parole officer,  
12 re-entry manager, contract manager, regional  
13 director, assistant commissioner and deputy  
14 commissioner. During her career in human services,  
15 she has collaborated and partnered with other state  
16 agencies/local stakeholders to develop and expand  
17 services to the formerly incarcerated individuals.  
18 She has been the recipient of numerous awards and  
19 distinctions for her leadership and dedication to  
20 re-entry. A native of Ponce Puerto Rico, and raised  
21 in the Bronx, she was recognized by the New York  
22 City Spanish newspaper El Diario, as one of the top  
23 50 outstanding Latina's in 2013. She is certified  
24 as a domestic violence prevention instructor and has  
25 served on the criminal justice advisory board at

1 St. Thomas Aquinas College. All please welcome our  
2 new Commissioner, Commissioner Ana Enright.

3 Commissioner Erin McCabe.

4 Commissioner Erin McCabe joined the board in 2023.  
5 She previously served as a probation supervisor with  
6 the Erie County Probation Department, assigned to  
7 oversee officers who worked with youth pending  
8 dispositions in Erie County Family Court and  
9 removals from Erie County Youth Part in accordance  
10 with Raise the Age legislation. Prior to her  
11 promotion, she previously worked as a probation  
12 officer for 15 years with experience in both adult  
13 and juvenile supervision as well as completed court  
14 ordered pre-sentence investigations. In her most  
15 recent position as an officer, she was responsible  
16 for coordinating all in house and new staff  
17 training. She holds a bachelor degree in psychology  
18 from Saint Bonaventure University and a master's  
19 degree in forensic psychology from the Chicago  
20 School of Professional Psychology. Commissioners,  
21 welcome Commissioner McCabe.

22 So, our Commissioners have all spaced  
23 themselves out one month apart, and we will soon be  
24 adding two additional, I'll read their bios, but  
25 we'll welcome them in the upcoming weeks.

1                   Brandon Stradford. Commissioner

2                   Stradford joined the board in 2023. He is a highly  
3                   accomplished civil servant known for his unwavering  
4                   commitment to equitable employment practices,  
5                   transformative justice administration, and advocacy  
6                   for holistic care. With expertise in redesigning  
7                   missions and implementing fair hiring practices, he  
8                   has made significant contributions to the New York  
9                   City Department of Juvenile Justice, the  
10                  Administration for Children's Services, as well as  
11                  the Department of Homeless Services. His efforts in  
12                  promoting diversity and collaborative work to  
13                  improve outcomes for court involved children  
14                  continue to foster more inclusive and evenhanded  
15                  environments. Commissioner Stradford is a staunch  
16                  advocate for 'The Least Of Us' and regularly serves  
17                  in his local community, in ministry, as well as  
18                  having served on mission fields in Asia and Africa.  
19                  He is a committed and experienced educator.

20                  Commissioner Stradford has a baccalaureate degree  
21                  from the State University of New York and a master's  
22                  degree from the City University of New York.

23                  Donna Henken. Donna Henken graduated  
24                  from Boston University School of Law and worked as  
25                  an assistant district attorney in the New York



1 County District Attorney's office. There she worked  
2 in the trial division and then worked prosecuting  
3 child abuse cases. She worked as a court attorney  
4 for the Honorable Judge Wittner in the New York  
5 Supreme Court and then joined the Legal Aid  
6 Society's Juvenile Rights practice representing  
7 children in abuse and neglect cases. After that she  
8 joined the criminal defense practice of the Legal  
9 Aid Society working for the Adolescent Intervention  
10 and Diversion Team. In that capacity she  
11 represented 14-18 year old individuals criminally  
12 charged as adults in New York Supreme Court.

13 So, we look forward to having these  
14 four distinguished new Commissioners. I know that  
15 you'll all welcome them, it's good to have a calvary  
16 finally. We've been looking over the hill for quite  
17 a while. Again, welcome. And also, as we are  
18 bringing in new, we'd also like to recognize the  
19 retirement of our long-serving Commissioner Otis  
20 Cruse. I know Commissioner Cruse served over  
21 40 years and had submitted his letter of  
22 resignation, which I'd like to share with you at  
23 this time.

24 "Dear Chairman Towns, it has been a  
25 great honor to serve the people of the State of New

1 York as a Commissioner on the Board of Parole. Said  
2 post culminates my 43rd year of continuous service  
3 to the State of New York. I remain proud to have  
4 served within the premiere correctional system in  
5 the country. Such notoriety has sanctioned New York  
6 State leadership; in criminal justice reforms; in  
7 diversity and in crafting legislative opportunity  
8 for the disenfranchised. Throughout this tenure, I  
9 have established myself to confront the tough  
10 decision, to gauge how much time is enough, and to  
11 add value to each man and woman interviewed/confined  
12 within our facilities. My effort has been to  
13 deliver excellence, shed example, and to lead where  
14 the easier option is to stand down. Thank you for  
15 your confidence. Whereas serving as Commissioner  
16 has been one of the highlights of my career, I  
17 submit this notice of my official retiring from  
18 state service; effective July 12, 2023. As I exit,  
19 my colleagues can well take it from here;  
20 administering the law, prudently, weighing all  
21 factors, fairly, and always ensuring the integrity  
22 of the process. I leave some phenomenal people; a  
23 cadre of professionals on whom I have grown to  
24 deeply care for and to depend. I will never regret  
25 sharing the boardroom with some brilliant minds, in

1 feisty deliberations, of vigorous opinion; with a  
2 liberty interest and public safety at stake. I  
3 would have it no other way. Chairman Towns, despite  
4 departing the statewide stage, I remain part of the  
5 public arena; to advance criminal justice for all,  
6 eliminate disparities, confront poverty, build  
7 family and to solidify resources for children. May  
8 your office abound, making its impact on  
9 administering justice, redefining leadership and  
10 through decision underscoring both public safety and  
11 the public trust. My best to you and the board  
12 "all" ways. Commissioner Otis Cruse."

13 I thank Commissioner Cruse for his  
14 great service. He will be missed, but he's told us  
15 that he will not be a stranger, so at some point in  
16 time, I'm sure that you may look up and see the  
17 dapper Commissioner Cruse somewhere. So, having  
18 concluded all scheduled business, I will entertain a  
19 motion to adjourn the public portion of today's  
20 meeting and enter into executive session to conduct  
21 full case reviews and discuss litigation matters  
22 with our counselor. Do I hear a motion?

23 COMMISSIONER M. COPPOLA: So moved.

24 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Thank you. Do I  
25 hear a second?

1 COMMISSIONER C. LEE: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Great. Thank you  
3 both. That was Commissioner Coppola and  
4 Commissioner Lee?

5 COMMISSIONER M. COPPOLA: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER C. Lee: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: All right. Any  
8 discussion? Having been presented with a motion and  
9 second, are we prepared to vote? Any question? All  
10 in favor, aye.

11 (All Commissioners respond aye.)

12 CHAIRMAN D. TOWNS: Any opposed? No?  
13 Any abstentions? Hearing none, the motion is  
14 carried and the public meeting is adjourned at 1:20.  
15 Thank you all.

16 (Whereupon, the Public Session of the Board of  
17 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.