

1 NYS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
2 AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION
3 BOARD OF PAROLE

4 *****

5 Board of Parole Business Meeting
6 (Public Session)

7 March 3, 2025

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9 PRESENT: Chairman Darryl C. Towns
10 Commissioner Joseph P. Crangle
11 Commissioner Tana Agostini
12 Commissioner Erik Berliner
13 Commissioner Tyece Drake
14 Commissioner Charles Davis
15 Commissioner Michael Corley
16 Commissioner Chanwoo Lee
17 Commissioner Sheila Samuels
18 Commissioner Carlton Mitchell
19 Commissioner Ana Enright
20 Commissioner Erin McCabe
21 Commissioner Donna Henken
22 Commissioner Laura El-Bahtity

23 Kathleen Kiley, Esq., Board of
24 Parole Counsel

25 Chelsea Vizvary, Assistant Deputy
Director

Carol Williams, Executive Assistant
to the Board of Parole

Ziran Guo, Excelsior Fellow

Christina M. Wolcott, Verbatim
Reporter II

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Good morning,
3 everyone. It is 11:06.

4 Good morning, commissioners. Thank
5 you all for joining me at the Department of
6 Corrections and Community Supervision Albany
7 Training Academy. I would ask you all to stand and
8 join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

9 I pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the
10 United States of America and to the Republic for
11 which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible,
12 with liberty and justice for all.

13 This meeting will come to order.

14 This is the March 2025 meeting of the
15 New York State Board of Parole. The time is now
16 11:08 on today, March 3rd.

17 I will now call the roll.

18 Joe Crangle?

19 COMMISSIONER CRANGLE: Present.

20 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Coppola?

21 (There was no response.)

22 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Agostini?

23 COMMISSIONER AGOSTINI: Present.

24 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Berliner?

25 COMMISSIONER BERLINER: Present.

1 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Drake?
2 COMMISSIONER DRAKE: Present.
3 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Davis?
4 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Present.
5 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Corley?
6 COMMISSIONER CORLEY: Present.
7 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Lee?
8 COMMISSIONER LEE: Present.
9 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Samuels?
10 COMMISSIONER SAMUELS: Present.
11 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Mitchell?
12 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: Present.
13 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Segarra?
14 (There was no response.)
15 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Enright?
16 COMMISSIONER ENRIGHT: Present.
17 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: McCabe?
18 COMMISSIONER MCCABE: Present.
19 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Henken?
20 COMMISSIONER HENKEN: Present.
21 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: El-Bahtity?
22 COMMISSIONER EL-BAHTITY: Present.
23 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: A quorum has been
24 established for the purposes of conducting business.
25 Also, joining us are Board of Parole

1 staff; Kathy Kiley on Counsel.

2 MS. KILEY: Present.

3 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Chelsea Vizvary?

4 MS. VIZVARY: Present.

5 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Carol Williams?

6 MS. WILLIAMS: Present.

7 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Ziran Guo?

8 MR. GUO: Present.

9 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Christina Wolcott?

10 MS. WOLCOTT: Present.

11 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Moving on to the
12 agenda, I'd again like to ask you to join me this
13 time for a moment of silence.

14 (Whereupon, there was a moment of
15 silence.)

16 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Thank you.

17 I would also like to acknowledge any
18 members of the public. I do see we are joined today
19 by a representative of the public. Just a reminder,
20 in-person attendees can observe only. Participation
21 is not permitted at our public meetings.

22 Moving on, you all have received a
23 copy of the September 16th, 2024, Board Business
24 Meeting minutes. Please review for their accuracy.

25 At this time I'll entertain a motion

1 to accept the minutes as presented?

2 COMMISSIONER MITCHELL: So moved.

3 COMMISSIONER CRANGLE: Seconded.

4 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: A motion has been
5 made by Commissioner Mitchell; seconded by
6 Commissioner Crangle.

7 This movement is seconded that the
8 September 16th, 2024, Business Meeting Minutes be
9 adopted as presented.

10 Is there any debate?

11 (There was no response.)

12 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Having heard no
13 request for debate, those in favor "Aye"?

14 (Response of "Aye.")

15 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Those opposed?

16 (There was no response.)

17 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: No?

18 Any abstentions?

19 (There was no response.)

20 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: The "Ayes" have it.

21 Thank you.

22 Moving on to old business, the Board
23 is still working towards the implementation of the
24 structured decision making form with the support of
25 the National Institute of Corrections. Our last

1 meeting the Board was about to undergo our
2 three-year audit with the American Correctional
3 Association and I'm happy to announce that, with the
4 leadership of Chelsea Vizvary and staff, we were
5 able to pass with flying colors. Our score actually
6 increased from 93 percent to 96.2 percent.

7 (Whereupon, there was applause.)

8 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Several waivers were
9 granted for areas that were non-applicable due to
10 the New York State laws. The Board is once again
11 accredited for the 2024-2027 period and our next
12 audit will be in the Fall of 2027.

13 We will now move to new business.

14 As you are all aware, due to the
15 staffing shortage, the Department of Corrections and
16 Community Supervision is dealing with each of the
17 current work actions. Many Board of Parole release
18 interviews have been postponed. Rest assured, the
19 Board will do everything in our control to make
20 these interviews up as expeditiously as possible.

21 Moving on to correspondences,
22 announcements and invitations. In May the Board has
23 been invited to a training by the Fortune Society
24 and we are looking forward to learning more about
25 their offerings to the incarcerated population that

1 they provide services to and those who are
2 transitioning back to the community. So, we look
3 forward to spending time with the Fortune Society.
4 Also, we should mention to -- date to be determined
5 that we are looking to have a full summer training
6 retreat in order to focus on some of the issues that
7 were outlined by a number of you who took part in
8 the survey in suggesting things that we should look
9 to, offer retraining and -- and additional training
10 along, so we look forward to that.

11 Having concluded all scheduled
12 business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn the
13 public portion of our meeting today and enter into
14 Executive Session to conduct any pending full board
15 case reviews and discuss litigation matters with our
16 counsel.

17 COMMISSIONER BERLINER: So moved.

18 COMMISSIONER AGOSTINI: Seconded.

19 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Moved by Berliner;
20 seconded by Agostini.

21 Any discussion?

22 (There was no response.)

23 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Hearing none, all in
24 favor "Aye"?

25 (Response of "Aye".)

1 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Opposed; no?

2 (There was no response.)

3 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: Any abstain?

4 (There was no response.)

5 CHAIRMAN TOWNS: The "Ayes" have it
6 and the motion is carried.

7 The public meeting is adjourned at
8 11:14.

9 Thank you, all.

10 (Whereupon, the hearing was concluded
11 at 11:14 a.m.)

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