

OPEN LETTER TO GOVERNOR CHARLIE D. BAKER

GREETINGS - 2017 - 2018

Luis D. Perez, W33937

NCCI-GARDNER

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<http://betweenthebars.org/blog/350/luis-d-perez>

Honorable Charles D. Baker
GOVERNOR
Office of the Governor\
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Boston, Mass. 02133



Dear Governor Baker:

I am a prisoner at NCCI-GARDNER and I am anticipating that my personal mail may not be reaching your office, but in a good spirit I am writing this letter because it is important that you review the enclosed documents. I've included the report from the state of Louisiana, who has one of the toughest prison system in the country, where the new prison reforms are allowing lifers without the possibility of parole to be released after 30 or 40 years of incarceration.

One of the most important issue for consideration is the power of the Judicial Branch of government which for years has overpowered the other two branches of the government, and I believe that it is time that, after the next election, the voters will help you to reverse the process of how the Governors Appoint judges for the duration of their careers and how DISTRICT ATTORNEYS are being elected. If the process is reversed, you will restore the balance of power between the branches of government in Massachusetts.

There is no question that the United States has the best administration of justice in the world, but we have a serious problem of corruption which is undermining that system of justice, because the constitution is not being applied equally to everyone. I am not making a racial approach to the subject, but rather money is determining the amount of constitutional guarantees afforded to the accused.

Your Excellency, the prison system in Massachusetts has become a business industry the secures jobs for law enforcement officers. Let me start by saying that you have people in prison who should be in a nursing home. I have been collecting accurate information for the past 40 years, from the time of Bulger and Flemmi, when the other Bulger brother was the Senate President, until, most recently, the cases of the resignations of State Police Superintendent Colonel Richard McKeon and Deputy Superintendent Francis Hughes and the most recent events involving Senate President Stanley Rosenberg and former Senator Brian Joyce.

Since the Willie Horton political fiasco, the tough-on-crime approach has been used to block prison reforms, and in some past elections, the media has magnified and sensationalize crime; in particular case of murder, rape and the shooting and murder of a police officer. The politicians pass new laws on top of the already established laws. Any plans for prison reforms are being abandoned.

It is important that you be aware that there are multiple reasons for further review and consideration:

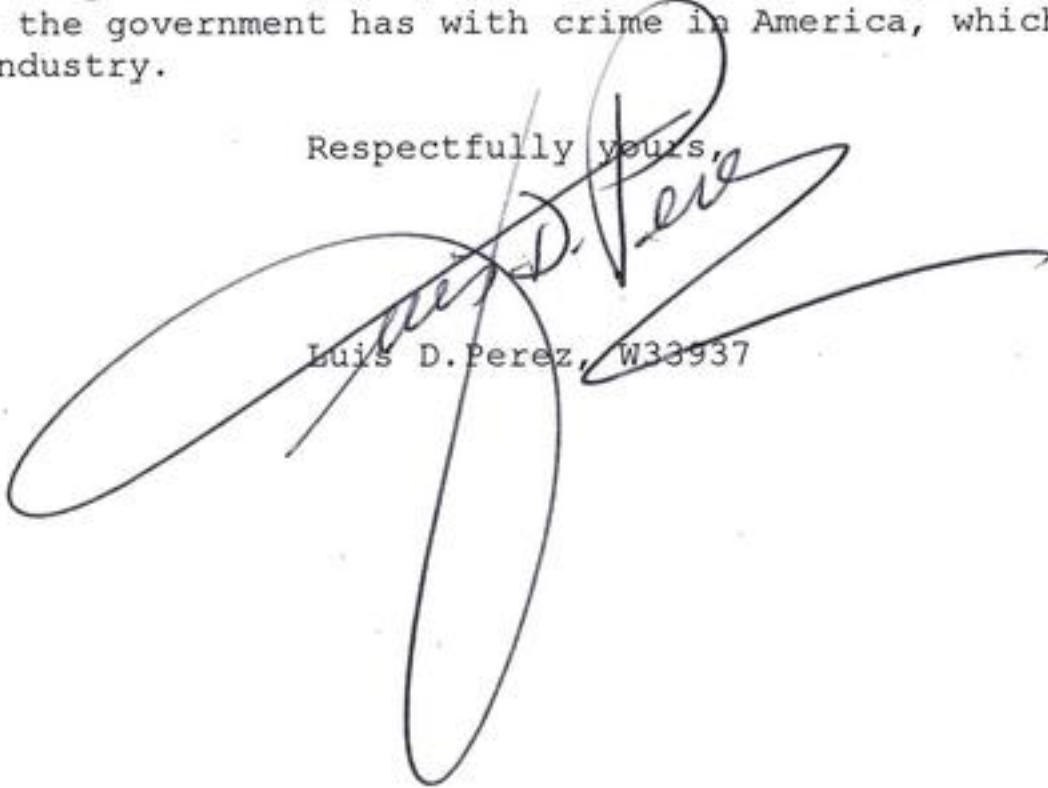
- 1) Unsolved murder cases that took place at MCI-WALPOLE (Cedar Junction), where the Norfolk County District Attorney maintained bags of evidence. Years later, when the same district attorney became a U.S. Representative, he allocated five million dollars to deal with cold cases in the United States, but refused to look into the unsolved murders at the prison, where DNA evidence would identify the perpetrators of those crimes;
- 2) Law enforcement officials, both federal and state, played a role in allowing inmates to get furloughs to the FBI and the State Police would be able to film an induction ceremony of the Cosa Nostra Organization;
- 3) Another interesting issue is with the State Police and Whitey Bulger, who was escorted from an airplane directly to his car so that he would not be detected by other Law Enforcement officials;
- 4) The powerful law enforcement union looks after the interest of its members in a business-like approach instead of looking at the over-all picture of crime that has increased because of drugs, drug-related murders, and gangs involved in violent activities across the Commonwealth.

Your Excellency, if you recall when you were the Finance Officer for Governor Weld, you tried to privatize the Department of Correction (DOC), but there was strong opposition from the Judicial branch and the Guards Union. Please note that I am not in any agreement with privatization, because I know such a good job as a Correction Officer is helping many good citizens in the Commonwealth and also is helping veterans coming back out of war zones. nBUT what I really want is for an honorable review, for you to look into the balancing of the economic justice and review new approaches to the Department of Correction.

While on the other hand, it is equally important that you be aware that the budget for the fiscal year for the DOC has increased while the prison population has decreased from last year.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that after you review the enclosed material, you will be able to keep in mind that you can bring the necessary changes in the name of justice - the prison subculture changes every 9 to 10 years, and by studying the prison system you can address the problems that the government has with crime in America, which is being treated as a form of business industry.

Respectfully yours,


Luis D. Perez, W33937

Enc: Louisiana Prison Report
Confidential Report
Newspaper Articles (2)

A politician with conviction

Inmate running for governor

By Mike Elfland
Staff Reporter

GARDNER — Luis Perez deflects suggestions that his run for governor is an underhanded attempt to gain his freedom. He maintains that his intention is to run the state from his cell at the Gardner state prison.

Communication with the public would occur via the lieutenant governor, he said.

"If I did a good job, then maybe after four years the people could decide if I should be pardoned," said Perez, convicted of murder in 1973 and sentenced to life without parole.

The 42-year-old former Lowell resident has set out to get the 10,000 signatures needed in order to get his name on the 1994 ballot. So far he has 61 signatures, all from fellow inmates. Many of those inmates became registered voters last year during a registration drive at the prison — spearheaded by Perez.

Perez acknowledges that many people will scoff at his political ambitions. He points to a certain lifetime behind bars when asked about his credibility.

THE TRUTH

"I personally think I'm a dead man; I'm speaking from my cemetery," Perez said during an interview at the prison. "I'm going to tell the truth, and I'm not going to lie. I don't have anything to gain."

Crime and politics are topics Perez enjoys

discussing — be it criminals who want to be politicians, like himself, or politicians who are accused of a crime. Since 1988, Perez has been collecting newspaper articles pertaining to political wrongdoing. He has over 500 articles, neatly arranged in a three-ring binder.

"They all get a break," Perez said, pointing to a collection of newspaper clippings that includes a recent story on the indictment of former state Sen. William Q. MacLean Jr. "I can tell you honestly, they aren't coming to prison."

Prisoners are people Perez will rely heavily on if he is to make headway in his quest for political office. Most of the 10,000 signatures he needs in order to get on the ballot in 1994 will be those of inmates. Therein lies one of Perez's motivations for organizing a voter registration drive at the prison last year. Similar registration drives were held at other state prisons.

"I figure there's about 8,000 to 10,000 inmates whose signatures I can get," said Perez, who has no party affiliation. "And then there's their families. That's a big block."

SIGNATURES NEEDED

According to the office of the secretary of state, the 10,000 signatures are due to the board of registrars for verification by Aug. 2. Perez's parents, who live in Fitchburg, and friends on the outside will help collect signatures.

Perez said he will rely greatly on the mail to spread his message.

"I ask people that if they support me, instead of sending money, to send stamps," he said.

Perez was born in Cuba and came to the United States in 1968. His family settled in Lowell. In 1971, he and five other people robbed a house that contained counterfeit money and a counterfeiting machine. Perez shot and killed a man, and two years later he was sentenced to life without parole.

Two decades later he has learned to speak English and earned an associate's degree in general studies through an extension program of Mount Wachusett Community College.

"The prison subculture is being transferred to the youth in urban areas," Perez said in a Feb. 6 press release. "If we don't study the prison we are never going to understand the problems that are affecting the community. My candidacy will offer another window of education with the scope being on prison subculture. ... throughout my political campaign I will be offering and sharing accurate solutions."

Meanwhile, chances of a pardon would be unlikely, according to Catherine Bromberg, spokeswoman for the state Ethics Commission. She said public officials can't be afforded benefits not available to others. In this case, other prisoners would not have the same opportunity for a pardon.



Luis Perez, with his collection of newspaper articles

MIKE EFLAND

Flemmi has alleged that he and Bulger — both longtime FBI informants — were promised immunity by the FBI in exchange for leaking information to the bureau about their Mafia rivals.

Martorano has refused to meet with the FBI, but has spent hundreds of hours being interviewed by the Massachusetts State Police, the US Drug Enforcement Administration, and more recently by investigators from Oklahoma and Florida, according to sources.

Earlier this year, Martorano's brother, Jimmy, who is serving a 15-month prison term on racketeering charges, said his brother stepped forward to stop Bulger and Flemmi from using the FBI to blame others for things they had done.

"I don't think anyone in this case is contending they were an angel," Jimmy Martorano said in an interview earlier this year. "But we weren't informants and we didn't do things and blame other people for them. Stevie and Whitey were the biggest criminals of all."

Under the deal, Martorano will plead guilty to federal racketeering, race-fixing, bookmaking, and extortion charges that have been pending against him since January 1995 in federal court in Boston. And he'll also plead guilty to a newly crafted federal "information" charge, charging him with being a racketeer in several murders, according to sources.

Accomplish murders are 1 and John D. testified them as 2. Prosecutors commend the sentenced to 12½. But since M spent nearly 1 ing trial in 1 he'll get credit could be a free years.

The agreement proved by B. J. DiMento Sr., Martorano, US, Stern, Suffolk, Ralph C. Ma, District Attorney, anti-Dade County Attorney Robert A. Ginsburg, and Tulsa District Attorney Tim Harris, sources said.

None of the parties involved in

against him or anyone else.

It is a stunning deal, observers say, the likes of which haven't been seen in Boston's underworld since 1968, when Joseph "The Animal" Barboza admitted killing 26 people, but served less than a year in prison after testifying against the hierarchy of the New England Mafia. He was gunned down in San Francisco in 1976 by avenging mobsters from Boston.

Martorano has confessed to killing even more people than the nation's most celebrated mobster-turned-government witness, Gambino family underboss Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano.

By Martorano's own admission, according to sources, he pumped a bullet into Roger Wheeler's head on May 27, 1981, just after the millionaire chairman of Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai had finished a round of golf at the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa.

Sources said Martorano has implicated the late Winter Hill Gang member Joseph McDonald as his accomplice in the slaying. But, sources said, Martorano contends the murder was orchestrated in Boston by Bulger and Flemmi, who were FBI informants at the time.

The FBI's handling of the Wheeler murder investigation has come under heavy criticism from state authorities.

Mr. Motorano is a mass murdered who is free walking in the street of Boston after serving 9½ years for killing 20 people, while here in the same State of Massachusetts prisoners are serving life sentences and die in prison for killing one person.

Then, on Aug. 3, 1982, Callahan's bullet-riddled body was found in the trunk of a Cadillac at Miami International Airport.

dumped.

SEPT. 28, 1966



John W. Jackson, 47, a bartender at a waterfront restaurant, was shot seven times as he stepped away from his car outside his apartment on Queensbury Street in the Back Bay. He was scheduled to testify at an upcoming murder trial.

JAN. 6, 1968

Herbert Smith, 47, **Elizabeth Dickson**, 19, and **Douglas Barrett**, 17, were shot to death in a car parked on Normandy Street in Roxbury.

MARCH 19, 1969

Ronald K. Hicks, 31, a key witness in an upcoming triple murder trial, was shot in a Cadillac in the Fenway.

MARCH 8, 1973

Michael Milano, 30, of Allston, was killed and two passengers wounded when a gunman sprayed his Mercedes-Benz at a Brighton traffic light. Case of mistaken identity. Milano was a bartender at Mother's, a North Station nightclub, with no underworld ties. Police believed the killer was gunning for Mother's owner, Alfred Angeli (who was killed in February 1974).

MARCH 19, 1973

Albert Plummer, 49, of Andover, was killed and his two passengers were wounded when his car was sprayed with machine-gun bullets from a passing car as he drove along Commercial Street in the North End. Wounded were Hugh (Sonny) Shields, 36, of Dorchester, and Frank Capizzi, 38, of Winthrop.

MARCH 23, 1973

William O'Brien, 32, of South Boston, was murdered by machine-gun fire as he drove his car along Morrissey Boulevard in Dorchester. Wounded in the shooting was Ralph DiMasi of Rhode Island.

APRIL 18, 1973



Joseph J. "Indian Joe" Notarangelo, 35, of Medford, was shot to death in a Medford Square Pewter Pot restaurant.

Alfred "Indian Al" Angeli, 37, of Winchester, brother of Joseph Notarangelo, was found in the trunk of a stolen car in Charlestown with a bullet in his head. Two youths from Charlestown, apparently unaware of the body in the trunk, stole the car and were chased by police and caught. Officers then made the grisly discovery. Angeli was co-owner of Mother's, a Boston nightclub. Police said they believe killers were gunning for Angeli in March 1973 when they killed Michael Milano in a case of mistaken identity.

DECEMBER 1974

James Sousa, of Waltham, was shot to death, then buried in an unmarked grave and covered with lime. His body was never found.

1975

Tommy King, of South Boston, disappeared and was presumed dead. A source said King got the better of Whitey Bulger in a fight in a bar shortly before his disappearance.

JUNE 12, 1975

Edward G. Connors, 42, of Dorchester, was ambushed in a telephone booth on Morrissey Boulevard. Connors, an ex-boxer who owned Connors Tavern and Bulldogs, was awaiting trial for an armored car robbery in Somerset in February 1974, in which \$500,000 was taken. Two men riddled Connors with at least 12 shots from a shotgun and a rifle, then fled on foot up Freeport Street.

DEC. 30, 1976

Richard J. Castucci, 47, owner of the Ebb Tide Lounge on Revere Beach Boulevard, was shot to death in his Cadillac sedan in the back of the Northgate Plaza in Revere.

MAY 27, 1981



Roger Wheeler, 55, the millionaire chairman of the Telex Corp. and owner of World Jai Alai, was gunned down outside a Tulsa country club.

AUG. 3, 1982

John "Jack" Callahan's bullet-riddled body was found in the trunk of a Cadillac at Miami International Airport. Callahan, 45, of Winchester, once worked at Bank of Boston and was formerly president of World Jai Alai. He had ties to the Winter Hill Gang.

qued for the first time when he 24, just six years after graduation from Milton High School, where co-captained the football team.

That victim, Robert Pallac 32, of Winchester, had testified before a Suffolk grand jury that in ed Martorano's brother, Jimmy, being an accessory in the murder a young waitress whose body stashed in the loft of a restaurant owned by the Martorano family.

Palladino, who had alleged been a suspect in the murder of waitress, was found dead under Central Artery near North Sts on Nov. 15, 1964. He had been behind the bar.

The following year, according sources, Martorano killed another man who testified before the grand jury. John Jackson, a bartender, was gunned down outside Back Bay apartment.

Then on Jan. 6, 1968, came the most brutal killings of :

The man Martorano was gunned for was Herbert "Smitty" Smith assistant manager at the B Street South nightclub in Boston South End, who apparently had ten into an underworld beef, according to sources. But when Smith rived for a meeting with Martorano he had two passengers in his Elizabeth Dickson, 19, and Douglas Barrett, 17. Martorano has admitted killing all three with gunshots to head, according to sources.

When police arrived, they found the three inside a car parked Normandy Street in Roxbury; cigarette still smoldering in Callahan's hand.

There were other innocent victims as well. Michael Milano, a bartender at a North Station nightclub, was mistaken for the club's owner Martorano and other gunmen sprayed his Mercedes-Benz with gunfire at a Brighton traffic light March 8, 1973, sources said.

Milano, 30, was killed and his passengers injured.

Milano was one of five people Martorano murdered in 1973, according to sources.

The killings stopped for a while when Martorano fled Massachusetts in 1978 to evade a race-fixing indictment. He remained a fugitive until his arrest in Boca Raton, Fla. in 1995.

Sources said Martorano has admitted killing Callahan as well and provided investigators with information about Halloran's slaying.

In the days after Wheeler's slaying, investigators speculated it was the work of a professional hit man who coolly executed the crime and

By Shelley Murphy
GLOBE STAFF

EX-mobster
reportedly
strikes deal
Gains leniency
by implicating
Flemmi, Bulger



JOHN MARTORANO
Admits to 20 murders

John Martorano, a ruthless hit man who has admitted killing 20 people — including a Tulsa millionaire and a pair of unwitting Roxbury teenagers — could walk free in less than eight years under a deal secretly approved by prosecutors from Massachusetts, Florida, and Oklahoma, according to sources familiar with the case.

JOHN MARTORANO
Admits to 20 murders

In a world where criminals cut deals by trading up, Martorano, 58, has offered after more than a year of negotiations to give up two notorious gangsters who betrayed him for years while working as FBI informants: fugitive South Boston crime boss James J. "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

Martorano, a former member of Somerville's Winter Hill Gang along with Bulger and Flemmi, is willing to reveal his own role in a string of

unsolved slayings spanning decades and three states, in the hope that he can bring down Flemmi and Bulger. While Martorano admits to two states that carry death penalty — Florida and Massachusetts — he has been assured never go to trial on those. Both states, however, have to call Martorano as a witness one else implicated in the goes to trial, the Globe has learned. MARTORANO.

ed to three games — D1

STICKY LINGE

Today: Partly sunny, in
Tomorrow: Cooler, 1st
High tide: 11:35 a.m., 11
Full report: Page 1

Sept. 4
Globe

CONFIDENTIAL

Information discovered in the computers of inmates Stewart and Clemente indicated the strong possibility of connection between these inmates and inmate Alfred Schulte. Several letters were discovered with the return address of "TRI STATE PARALEGAL SERVICES" Box 123, Lancaster, MA. These letters were signed "Bob Stewart." Information was discovered in the form of letterhead identifying inmates Stewart, Schulte and Clemente as principals of Tri State Paralegal. The letters recovered related to non-criminal proceedings and not related to inmates. They included bills for services rendered and quotes for future legal work. The search of inmate Clemente's computer disks recovered from Clemente's room, revealed that he was in possession of approximately forty (40) Macintosh disks. These disks contained information and programs that appeared on Stewart's computer. They also included several disks which contained facility and staff related information.

On April 1, 1994, inmate Alfred Schulte was returned to higher security and his computer was seized. It was determined that Schulte had knowingly erased a section of his terminal drive containing information relating to activities that were in concert with Stewart and Clemente. This was determined by the recovery of a list of deleted files, whose file names coincided with those found in the possession of Stewart and Clemente and Tri State Paralegal service. As a result of a search of his property it is evident that he was doing legal work for individuals using the name and title Alfred Schulte, Esq., Director for "COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION MCI LANCASTER PRE-RELEASE CENTER THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BOX 123 OLD COMMON ROAD LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS," and that he was using the telephone number (508) 369-0388 ext 24 which belongs to the MCI Lancaster Campbell building where Schulte was housed. Presently, Schulte is on P.I. status at MCI Norfolk.

The following information was recovered from Stewart and Clemente's PC and disks:

INTERNAL: Three organizational charts were discovered in a 4th level sub-directory of the "Documents" directory, these charts included job titles, grades and position numbers of the facilities administration.

Floppy disks contained the following:

DISK 1: Schedules for staffing, shift names and dates, staff Special State Police Commission's effective/expiration and renewal dates.

DISK 2: List of staff social security numbers, position numbers and job titles. Staff resumes of Thomas Fallon, Michael Koley, Frank Guerra and possibly Douglas Schultz, with the names of inmates Leo Landry W-53250 and David MacHaven (W-41367), replacing the staff members. There was also a letter from Justin Bell for Kelly's gun permit.

MEMO

THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE AT A TIME WHEN THE GOVERNOR WAS INTRODUCING HIS "TOUGH ON CRIME" Policy. WHILE OTHERS LIKE MYSELF SIT IN PRISON FOR DECADES TRYING TO EARN OUR FREEDOM THE RIGHT WAY, WE CAN'T EVEN GET A HEARING TO SEE THE PAROLE BOARD.

Clemente's case 517 N.E. 2d 479
JUDGE EATEN ON TRIAL
18-20 YRS SENTENCE
17-20 YRS CONSECUTIVE SENTENCE
3-5 CONSECUTIVE LIAISON RETURN

THE REPORT OF ROBERT STEWART ESCAPE FROM MCI-LANCASTER AND THE TRI STATE PARALEGAL SERVICES OF GERALD CLEMENTE, ALFRED P. SCHULTE AND ROBERT STEWART.//

The public never knew the truth behind the story of the escape in March of 1994, during which Stewart shot and wounded a Shirley Police Officer. The media for months published the entire incident that at the end was used to bring back all 2nd degree lifers who were in minimum security facilities.

I was very surprised when I read the Confidential Report that was E-mailed to the Parole Board that ultimately gave a Parole to Gerald Clemente before his properly parole eligibility date of 12/20/1995.

The DOC was aware of the gun, money after the escape, the gun was obtained by Mr. Clemente and the serial number was removed at the Auto Repair-shop. Mr. Clemente was working for the Office of the Director of Security at MCI-Lancaster and was able to cover for Mr. Stewart school activities and subsequently for his escape.

During my legal research, I paid for the Court Record of Mr. Alfred P. Schulte and I read what he filed, and his claim of selective prosecution and that his co-defendant somehow was none other than the father of them Lt. Governor Paul Cellucci. According to the Court Records, Commonwealth v. Schulte, #92-P-353 (12/91992), Mr. Schulte explained how the insurance fraud scam was involved a Doctor who fabricated false insurance medical claims from vehicle accident to the Department of Industrial Accidents.

The case against the Doctor and Cellucci Senior was dropped because the evidence was obtained under a search warrant that was for Mr. Schultes' house and not for the Doctor's residence and his office records located next to Mr. Schultes' house.

I also discovered during my legal research that former Captain Gerald Clemente cooperated with the federal government under the Corrupt Organizations Act, and that was the main reasons why he was serving his time in a minimum security. - For more than 10 yrs., Mr. Clemente and Officer Thomas Doherty stole copies of Police Examinations from the Office of the Massachusetts Department of Personnel Administration (MDPA). Both of them charged between \$3,000 and \$4,000 for copies of the promotional examinations for law Enforcement people in Suffolk County, Middlesex County and other surrounding jurisdictions. See records 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961, 1968 Melrop U.S. v. Doherty 867 F. 2nd 47, 52-53 (1st Cir.), and 425 Mass. Doherty v. Retirement Bd. 2/6/97. Officer Doherty & Officer Clemente worked for the Metropolitan District Police Commission.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Gerald Clemente was serving a 18 to 20 years and 12 to 20 consecutive sentence, Commonwealth v. Clemente, 517 N.E. 2nd 479. - The conviction was connected when Mr. Clemente was a former Police Captain and played a major role on the breaking into a bank in Medford during the memorial day weekend on May 24--27, 1980.

The Parole Board and the DOC also had acknowledge that instead of giving parole for good conduct, Mr. Clemente should have been indicted for his participation in the Stewart case. But again, It was a cover-up to protect the responsibility of the Director of Security who was the son of a District Court Judge and the Program Director who was the brother of State Representative.

Here's how Louisiana parole will change under criminal justice reform

Comment

Updated on June 23, 2017 at 1:11 PM Posted on June 22, 2017 at 11:45 AM



Louisiana's criminal justice package will affect how parole works, mostly after Nov. 1. (Photo by Brett Duke, Nola.com | The Times-Picayune)(BRETT DUKE)

2.2k shares

By Julia O'Donoghue

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NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune

Louisiana lawmakers approved a criminal justice system overhaul -- one that advocates are calling historic -- during the 2017 regular legislative session. We've broken down the package into three parts. Here's the first part, about changes to parole and probation laws:

The U.S. Supreme Court says Louisiana needs to make a change.

Easier to earn 'good time'

Prisoners will be allowed more quickly to earn credit toward an earlier release and reduce their sentence. Participation in educational programs, drug treatment and work programs will reduce incarceration time for some inmates. This change affects only those people convicted after Oct. 31; no one who is currently incarcerated will benefit.

Earlier parole for felons

A person convicted of one or two felonies will be eligible for parole earlier, but only if all the convictions are for non-violent crimes.

Parole for 1970s killers

A group of 110 to 120 inmates who were convicted of second-degree murder in the 1970s will become eligible for parole once they have served 40 years in prison. Currently, they are serving life sentences without any parole possibility.

This change was made because these inmates were originally incarcerated with the expectation that they would have a shot at parole after 20 or 40 years in prison. Conflicting Louisiana laws at that time meant that they ended up with life sentences without parole.

Juvenile killers

Louisiana has given a shot at parole to more people who are convicted of committing murder when they were juveniles, that is, younger than 18. The U.S. Supreme Court told Louisiana it must expand parole for juvenile lifers, who currently have no parole options and are expected to die in prison.

The change means people convicted of murder as juveniles will be eligible for parole after 25 years in prison. It applies to people already in prison, as well as those newly convicted.

In the case of juveniles convicted of first-degree murder in the future -- and juvenile lifers already serving sentences for murder -- prosecutors may ask a court to take parole eligibility away. This law takes affect Aug. 1.

Medical furlough

Prison inmates who have been deemed permanently disabled or terminally ill may be released to a hospital or nursing home temporarily, even if they have been convicted of murder,

beginning Nov. 1. Under the current policies, people convicted of murder may not be released from prison for medical reasons.

The new "medical furlough" policy does not mean that released inmates won't be monitored or be held in a secure building. It's also not necessarily permanent; if the person recovers, he or she will be sent back to prison.

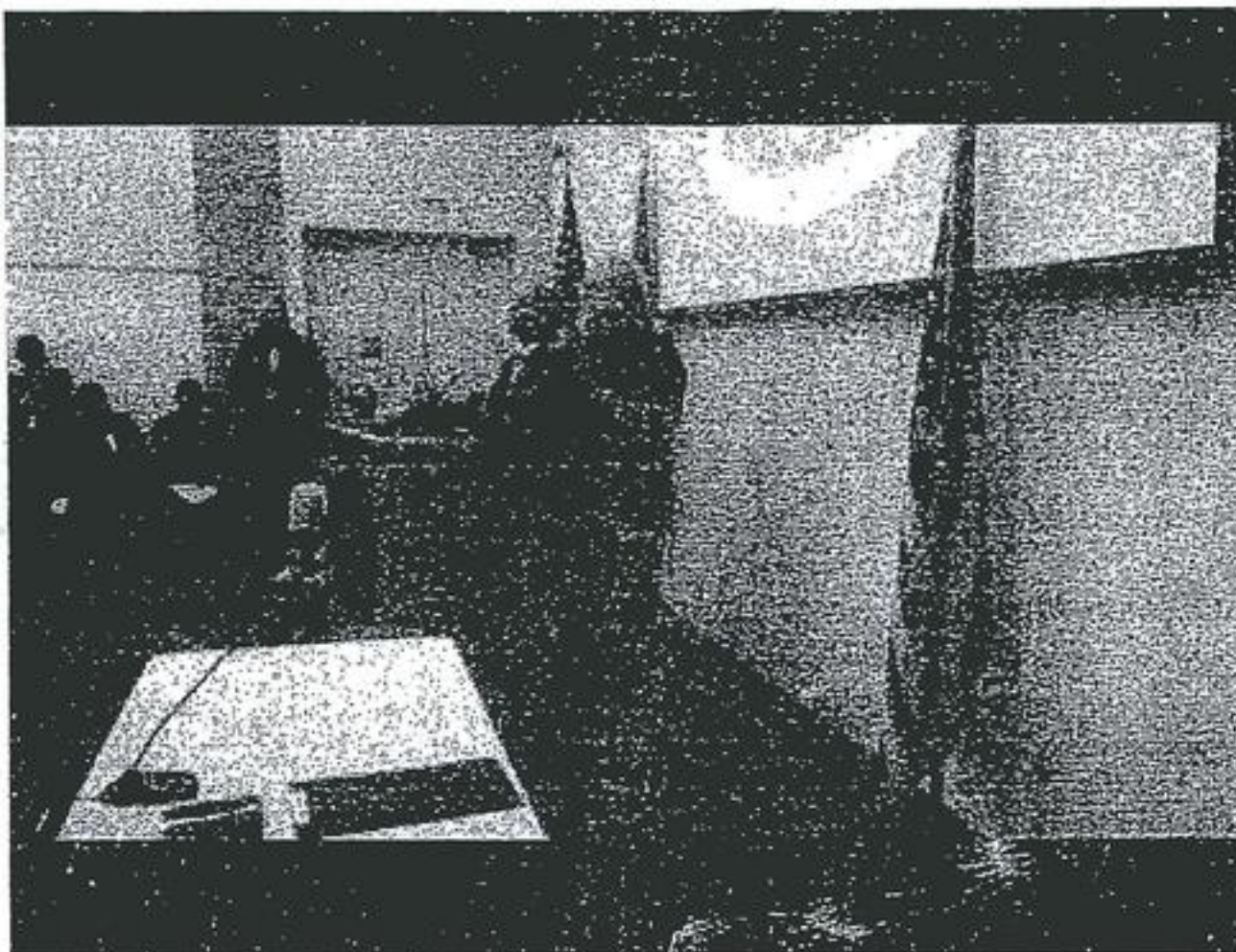
Notice to victims

Starting Nov. 1, district attorneys, crime victims and the families of victims will get earlier notice when someone is coming up for parole. Prosecutors will be told 60 days ahead of time, instead of the 30-day notice in current law. Victims will be told 60 to 90 days ahead of time, depending on the type of offense.



How long should La. keep old, ill criminals in prison?

State spends \$75 million a year just on medical care for offenders; governor wants changes. *Julia O'Donoghue is a state politics reporter based in Baton Rouge. She can be reached at jodonoghue@nola.com or on Twitter at [@jsodonoghue](https://twitter.com/jsodonoghue). Please consider following us on Facebook at [NOLA.com](https://www.facebook.com/NOLA.com).*



La. criminal justice reform bills signed by governor

Aim is to reduce prison population 10 percent, save \$78 million, shed incarceration image

First-time violent criminals

For people convicted for the first time of a violent crime that carries a prison sentence of 10 years or less, judges will now be allowed to suspend or shorten the post-prison probation and parole period. This will not apply to child pornographers or domestic abusers, however. This change takes effect Nov. 1 and could apply to people already in prison. It does not affect sentencing for crimes such as murder, kidnapping or armed robbery, which are punishable by more than 10 years.

Repeat offenders

For a person convicted of some third felonies, judges will have the authority to shorten their post-prison probation period. Judges do not have that discretion under current law. This change will take place Nov. 1 and could apply to people already in prison. It does not apply, however, in the case of violent crimes such as murder or kidnapping, certain types of fraud and child pornography.

Three-time felons

Currently, people who are convicted of three felonies -- even non-violent crimes -- are not eligible for parole. Beginning Nov. 1, parole will be an option unless the third conviction was for a violent or sex crime. This change does not affect people already in prison.

No more minimum

Some lower-level violent crimes now carry an automatic probation period of one year. That will be removed from the law on Nov. 1. This could affect people who are already in prison.

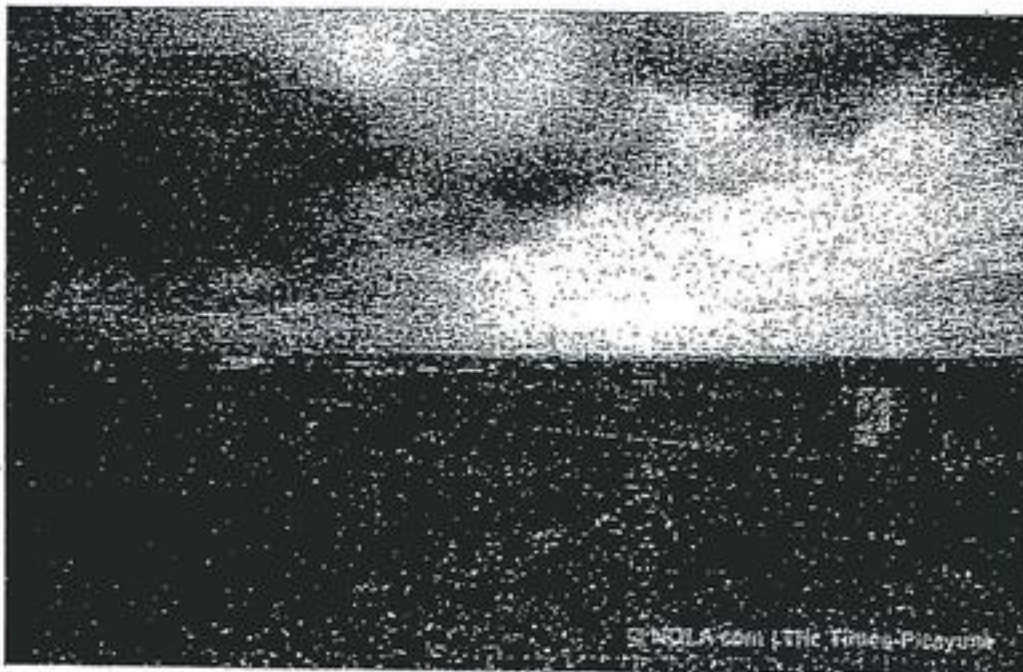
Shorter parole and probation

For some offenses -- not the most serious ones -- the maximum probation and parole period will be shortened. It is now five years, but will drop to three years.

Parole violators

If a person violates parole in certain ways, the judge will now be restricted on sending the violator back to prison. The violations at issue are a single positive drug test, changing residence without permission, associating with other felons, traveling without permission or failure to pay victim restitution for up to three months. Additionally, a person found twice to be drinking alcohol could not be sent back to prison unless he or she was convicted of something related to drunk driving or domestic abuse.

When a parole violation does return a person to prison, the violator could be re-incarcerated for shorter amounts of time unless the underlying crime was considered violent or a sex-offense. These new parole rules will go into place Nov. 1.



Lawmakers to negotiate juvenile life sentences