

THE PAROLE REPORT

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2008

In this Issue:

- Message from the Chairman
- Operation Halloween
- Parole Officer Profile
- Division Holds Management Summit
- Martin Kelly Remembered



Inside The Report

<i>Conversation with Michael Balboni</i>	2
<i>New Board Members</i>	3
<i>PO Detrel Howell</i>	5
<i>Martin Kelly Remembered</i>	5
<i>Recruits Graduate</i>	6
<i>Sentencing Reform</i>	7
<i>Alert PO nabs violator</i>	9

Message From the Chairman

The past 12 months have been eventful at the Division with a new leadership team in place and new initiatives coming to fruition

Under the leadership of Governor Eliot Spitzer, the Division is redoubling its efforts to rehabilitate offenders and help them reenter society as law-abiding, productive citizens. To that end, the Division, along with the Department of Correctional Services and the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, in August launched a pilot program at the Orleans Correctional Facility aimed at creating an environment that will foster the prisoners' successful return to the community by providing personal contact between inmates and those who will

help them fulfill their obligations as citizens. Prior to release, participants will be matched up with any necessary programs, such as job training, anger management or substance abuse counseling. Program staffers will also help parolees apply for public benefits prior to their release to help defray the cost of such programs. Perhaps most importantly, the former offenders will be given the chance to reconnect with their families..

A new Parole Violator Initiative begun in 2007 has led to a substantial decrease in the number of parolees languishing in local county jails on parole violations. This initiative has saved taxpayers across the state money and helped make our operations run smoother.

The Division has developed a "Menu of Services" it is offering to county authorities to help speed up the parole violation process. The Division has hired three new administrative law judges to accelerate the violation hearing process and is expanding an expedited arraignment process used at Riker's Island in New York City to the rest of the state. The Division has also created a "certificate of disposition," that will be provided to counties to let them know immediately when an inmate has been found guilty of violating his parole and



See **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**, page 3

Operation Halloween a Success

Operation Halloween: Zero Tolerance put the Division in a positive light in various news stories in newspapers on television and the Internet this year.

The statewide operation, aimed at ensuring New York's children a happy and

safe Halloween, netted numerous curfew violations and several warrants were issued. Television crews in Buffalo, Rochester and Albany accompanied teams of parole officers as they enforced the special curfews placed on sex offenders on

Halloween night.

Reporters were able to get a first-hand look at officers conducting surveillance, making unannounced home visits and carrying out curfew checks at the offenders' residences. News outlets across the state did sto-

See **OPERATION HALLOWEEN**, Page 4

A Conversation With Michael Balboni

Michael Balboni was appointed Deputy Secretary to the Governor for Public Safety by Gov. Eliot Spitzer in January 2007. Mr. Balboni oversees the Division of Parole, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Department of Correctional Services and other public safety agencies.

A married father of four, the native of Nassau County served eight years in the Assembly and 10 in the State Senate. There, he chaired the Senate Committee on Veteran's Affairs, Homeland Security and Military Affairs, led the enactment of new anti-terrorism laws in New York, set up security requirements for small airports and established procedures for securing chemical plants against terrorist attacks.

Key appointments: National task force examining the flow of federal homeland security dollars to local communities (by former national Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, 2004); Senior Fellow of the Homeland Security Policy Institute at George Washington University (2005); co-chairman of the Executive Task Force on Homeland Security of the National Conference of State Legislatures; State and Local Officials Senior Advisory Committee of the United States Homeland Security Advisory Council (2006).

What is the scope of your duties?

I oversee 13 agencies, 63,000 employees and \$5 billion in budget. It's both sides of the coin, criminal justice and homeland security and emergency management. It's a tremendous synergy of agencies and enormously challenging to try to anticipate all the different issues that come up. I also serve in the Governor's cabinet and have a terrific relationship with the governor. I enjoy working for him very much and adopting his vision of energizing the government. And making it accountable, transparent and innovative.

How does the Division of Parole fit in?

The area of parole is looking at huge changes. Whether it is technology, whether it is civil confinement or reentry. These are all issues that force us to reexamine the Division of Parole's issues and apparatus and tasks through a new prism.

The biggest lesson I've learned is that in Parole, really, truly you are only as good as your parole officer. You are only as good as the personnel that sit in judgment of whether or not a parolee should get out of prison. You are only as good as the administrative staff who are able to help balance the incredible case loads with the need for really good supervision and how to take that mission and define it in a way that the public can understand and support.

Where do you see reentry fitting in with the administration's law enforcement and homeland security agenda?

We are in an age in which it's all about intelligence and feeding it into the system. It is developing the picture of what's going on in the communities. In many ways police and parole officers are truly on the front lines of that. We have to make sure officers have the appropriate training and support and have a way to communicate their findings in real time. We have to have a way for the system to vet the information and to make sure that systems that integrate with parole appreciate their role and then feedback into them. It shouldn't be a one-way street. It should be also a dialogue.

Given that New York is already one of the safest states in the nation, what can we do to further improve public safety?

The civil confinement issue is going to force us to revisit how we do parole. We are going to have to find community housing for the strict and intensive supervision population. We are going to have to message with the locals. We are going to have to find innovative ways to make sure housing

is absolutely secure. Is it putting a parole officer in each of the housing units? Is it using GPS monitoring or other types of electronics effectively? How do we shift towards this new priority, identified by the governor and the Legislature, to track and prevent these individuals from harming anyone again?



Parole is going to be again in the forefront of reexamining when we send people back to prison. What is the process by which we do it? How do we violate somebody for an offense that is perhaps technical and from outside world looks petty? Inside parole it is absolutely crucial to have a relationship of responsibility with the parolee. It's not a new challenge, it's been out there a long time, but we are going to take a look at things like graduated (sanctions). But in some cases that may have limited utility. At the end of the day, parole officer safety has got to be paramount. That means support, training and information.

It's especially crucial for parole officers.

What would you like to communicate to parole officers?

That their job is of crucial importance to the state, particularly given the number of inmates that are going to be released from prison in the next couple of years. People of the community may never say to them 'we absolutely rely on your service' but they do. They are unsung, unappreciated, and many times unknown, but they are as essential a part of our criminal justice protection system as a state trooper, a national guardsman, an FBI agent or a corrections officer.

CORRECTION: The Fall edition of the Parole Report incorrectly identified Chairman's Award recipient Eileen Vives as a parole officer in the Buffalo Area Office. She is a Senior Parole Officer in the Bureau of Special Services in Manhattan.

Board of Parole Adds New Member and Keeps Another

Michael A. Hagler was confirmed by the New York State Senate to serve a six-year term on the 19-member Parole Board. Commissioner Lisa Beth Elovich's was also confirmed to her second appointment to the Board.

Governor Eliot Spitzer nominated Commissioner Hagler to the post on July 10, 2007. He was confirmed by the State Senate on Oct. 22, 2007. Commissioner Hagler succeeds William Crowe. His term expires on Aug. 31, 2013.

Hagler comes to the Board after serving more than 30 years in law enforcement.

From 1996 to 2007, Commissioner Hagler served as a senior investigator with the Office of the New York State Attorney General, conducting investigations into environmental and computer crimes, money laundering, gambling and narcotics in the Rochester region. He also served as a member of the Metro Rochester Firearms Suppression Unit (Project Exile) and served on the security detail for then Attorney General Eliot Spitzer in upstate New York.

Prior to joining the Attorney General's Office, Commissioner Hagler was an investigator sergeant with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office from 1990 to 1996, supervising various units within the department's Criminal Investigation Division. He also served as the department's liaison

with all local, state and federal law enforcement agencies as well as community groups.

Governor Spitzer nominated Commissioner Elovich to the Board for a term to expire on June 18, 2009. The State Senate on Oct. 22 confirmed her appointment. The Senate previously confirmed her in December 2006 to fill a term that ended on Aug. 31, 2007.

Commissioner Elovich served as an administrative law judge at the New York State Office of Children and Family Services from 1998 until her appointment to the Board.

She previously worked as a lawyer in the Attorney General's Office and in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.



Parole Interview Room, Hudson Correctional Facility

Division Holds Summit for Executive Staff and Management

Executive staff, regional and deputy region directors and area supervisors got together this past October for a Parole Summit called by Chairman George Alexander.

The idea was to share ideas, air differences and reconnect with colleagues under the new administration in Albany.

Staying in Lake George, atten-

dees first took part in a team building exercise before jumping into a packed schedule of presentations and discussions.

Chairman Alexander gave an overview of the agency's priority to focus on community reentry and his vision at once again making the Division run seamlessly and effectively.

Over the next two days, the attendees heard presentations on the agency's many departments. Director of Administration Jeff Nesich and his team gave a detailed explanation of agency's finances and staffing levels while Mary Osborne provided a detailed examination of sex offender

See SUMMIT, page 8

Chairman's Message (continued from front page)

ordered returned to state custody.

The aim is to alleviate unnecessary delays and return the inmate to Department of Correctional Services custody as soon as possible. The state is further working with the New York State Association of Counties to develop ways to train local governments on return procedures for parole violators.

With the signing of the Sex Of-

fender Management and Treatment Act this past April, the Division launched a new Sex Offender Management Unit to comply with the law in supervising sex offenders released to the community. The unit has developed a comprehensive sex offender management protocol to comply with the law and reduce the risks to public safety posed by sex offenders most likely to commit crimes

again. I look forward to accomplishing even more in the coming year and look to Governor Spitzer and the Legislature to help boost the critical role we play in public safety.

— George B. Alexander
Chairman and CEO
NYS Division of Parole

Officer Profile: Detrel Howell

Detrel Howell had almost given up hope of becoming a parole officer.

She first applied to become a recruit in 1997, but wasn't immediately contacted. Years went by and she heard nothing.

Finally, in 2001, she got the call, gave up her job as a social worker and joined the ranks of the Division.

Howell's path to Parole started when she left her home on Long Island to attend college at Buffalo State University. After two years in Buffalo, she moved back to New York to attend the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

A member of the Army Reserve, she was called up for duty during the first Gulf War in 1991 and served 8 ½ months in Saudi Arabia.

Following her return to New York, she enrolled at The City College of New York where she earned her bachelor's degree. In 1995, she went to Fordham University where she earned a master's in social work.

While she waited to hear from the Division, she worked with foster care children for numerous agencies in New York. It was a heart-wrenching job, she said, that she was ready to leave as soon as Parole came calling.

After carrying a regular case load in Queens, Howell was assigned to the Harlem Reentry Court program. It was through that program that Howell made herself stand out.

Working with the Division of Criminal Justice Services and the Division of Parole, the Reentry Court provides ongoing judicial oversight to new parolees, helping them to a range of social service such as drug treatment, health care and education. Participants are required to return to the Justice Center frequently to meet with case managers and parole officers and appear before an administrative law judge, who closely monitors their compliance with court orders. The goal of the program is to stabilize returning parolees in the first phases of their reentry by helping them find jobs, secure housing and accept personal responsibilities.

Howell, 39, says working with the Reentry Court, which focuses on parolees with long-standing criminal justice histories, gave her the chance to help parolees make significant strides.

"You have the opportunity to have a great impact on the parolees you supervise," she said. "You can be a lot more effective. I felt I made

a great impact."

Spencer Weber, one of her former cases, agreed. Weber

"She opened up to me, checked in on me, visited with my mother," he said. "It was a beautiful thing."

Weber, 43, who served a year in state prison for a drug conviction, earned a merit discharge after a year on parole under Howell's watch. He's now working in the landscaping business and taking online courses to earn a degree.

"I don't think I could have done parole if it wasn't for her. She was informative and gave me lot of info on how to adapt. I could go on and on about Ms. Howell. I was blessed to fall in her lap."

Howell, who live on Long Island with her 15-year-old son, says she tries to show courtesy and respect to all of her cases, knowing that can be "extremely vital in helping someone turn their life around."

"It can really be a benefit to you in the long run, when you least expect it," she said.



Operation Halloween (continued from front page)

ries on the operation in the week leading up to Halloween as well. The Division's operation was also noted in a story on CNN.com.

Operation Halloween: Zero Tolerance serves as a supplement to the Division's already comprehensive supervision of sex offenders that includes assuring compliance with needed treatment and counseling.

"Public safety is one of the foremost responsibilities of the Division of Parole and we take that responsibility very seriously, especially with sex of-

fenders," Chairman Alexander said. "Our Halloween operation gives parents, caregivers, law enforcement and the community added assurance that children will be protected and neighborhoods will be safe from known predators."

Under Operation Halloween, all sex offender parolees are required to stay in their residences until 6 a.m. the morning after the holiday. The parolees are banned from participating in any Halloween activity; prohibited from wearing any costume, mask or dis-

guise; and cannot open the door to any minors who are trick-or-treating.

Parolees are also required to answer their telephones as parole officers make calls throughout the night.

Many of the officers making curfew checks were equipped with portable DVD players to make sure those under supervision are not in possession of inappropriate CDs and DVDs.

One parolee told WRGB-TV in Albany that he felt the initiative, and the work of parole officers in general, helped to keep him from reoffending.

Former Director of Administration Remembered

Former Director of Administration Martin F. Kelly was known for his tough negotiating style, his infinite knowledge of Parole finances and, of course, his cowboy boots.

In late November Kelly was also remembered for the decades of faithful service he gave to the Division of Parole with the naming of the third-floor conference room in Central Office in his honor.

Kelly cast an intimidating presence as Director of Administration from 1978 until his retirement in 2002.

He was an intensely private man, who kept his home life to himself and never shared the details of his fellow workers' personal lives.

Still, beneath his outward persona as a tough-as-nails number cruncher, Kelly was a thoughtful and giving man who was beloved by those who worked for and with him.

Above all, Kelly had the utmost respect of everyone in the Division as well as other budget officials in state government.

"Marty Kelly was a fearless advocate for the Division of Parole and was acknowledged as one of the state's leading budget experts," said Director of Administration Jeff Nesich, who worked under Kelly for years. "He was the hardest working guy ... intensely brilliant about state politics. One of the great secrets of Marty Kelly was how nice he was."

Attending the conference room dedication ceremony were former Chairman Brion Travis, former Executive Director Martin Cirincione, former Director of Administration Stan Phillips, former Finance Director Dennis Casey, as well as numerous former and current employees.

Joining them were Kelly's wife,

Maureen, his three sons, Paul, Michel and Patrick, numerous grandchildren and other family members.

In addition to a wall mounted plaque that bears his likeness, the conference room is now decorated with photographs commemorating Albany's history and traditions.

Maureen Kelly said the ceremony and the honor itself would have been more than her late husband would have ever wanted or expected.

"He didn't like to be center stage at all. He much preferred to be in the background," she said. "This is very, very nice, but it's totally different from what he would have expected. It certainly is an honor. It's an emotional time to come back and relive a lot of the history."

Kelly passed away in January 2005.



Polygraph Test Sends Parolee Back to Jail

The polygraph proved to be the parolee's undoing.

Last month, level 3 sex offender Chad Colf, admitted to parole officers that he violated the conditions of his parole by having contact with an underage girl. The admission came after Parole Officer Rosemary Montalto administered a polygraph test on Colf, finding Colf's statements deceptive. Five days after submitting to the test, Colf was ordered to report to the Elmira Area

Office where he was interviewed by Senior Parole Officer Jeffrey Jones and Parole Officers Timothy Graven and Eric Winkky.

During questioning, Colf admitted to having several contacts with a 14-year-old girl and told officers he had fantasized about the girl, according to the violation report. Colf also told the officers that he felt he was about to relapse. Colf was immediately taken into custody and is now at the Yates County Jail

awaiting his final revocation hearing.

In 2000, Colf was sentenced to six years in prison and three years of post release supervision for a conviction of second-degree course sexual conduct of a child. Colf was released to parole supervision in May 2005, only to be returned to prison five months later after he admitted to having contact with a child under the age of 18. He was ordered held 24 months and released again this past August.

New Officers Strengthen State Ranks

The Division of Parole welcomed 78 new Parole Officers for completing the Basic School for the New York State Division of Parole during graduation exercises at Proctor's Theater in Schenectady, N.Y. The ceremony, the largest ever for the Division of Parole, combined graduation honors for two separate recruit classes.

Albany County District Attorney David Soares was the event's keynote speaker. John Ducksworth, formerly incarcerated in New York, served as a guest speaker.

With the addition of these new officers, the force of the New York Division of Parole has been increased to almost 1,300 sworn Peace Officers. The new officers have been assigned to Parole Field and Department of Correctional Services facilities across the state.

Chairman Alexander praised the graduates for answering the call to protect their fellow citizens and uphold the highest ideals of law enforcement and public service.

"My sincere gratitude goes to these dedicated men and women who have chosen to dedicate their lives promot-

ing public safety by helping former offenders become successful members of society," Chairman Alexander said. "As we at the Division of Parole are redoubling our efforts to improve the success rate of those on parole, we welcome the new talented additions who will help us meet our high standards and lofty goals."

The intensive eight-week training program took place at the Senator Hugh T. Farley Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy in Schenectady, New York. The new Parole Officers received training in offender supervision and criminal justice best practices at the state-of-the-art police-training facility.

Parole Officers Jessica Ciacci, Timothy Braughler, Sherie Goslin and Pamela VanAmburgh were honored as the recipients of the Leroy Drake Memorial Award. The Leroy Drake Award is presented to the graduating recruits who excel academically at the Parole Officer Candidate School.

Leroy Drake was a Parole Officer for 13 years. He exemplified the highest standards of demeanor and personal

conduct, both on and off the job.

Parole Officers Christopher Petrus and Timothy Braughler were honored as the recipients of the Eric Jaworski Memorial Award. This award is presented to the graduating recruits who exhibit the highest degree of firearm proficiency.

Eric Jaworski was a Parole Officer who worked for the Division for four years. He was an outstanding worker who always gave an extraordinary degree of effort on the job. Eric Jaworski died in April of 1991 after a courageous bout with cancer.

Parole Officers Oni Pendarvis and Timothy Braughler were honored as the recipients of the Chairman's Achievement Award. The award is presented to the individuals who demonstrate the highest level of overall excellence during training. Criteria considered for the award include high academic performance, class participation, knowledge of case-management principles, firearm proficiency and leadership ability.

Parole Officers Libby Black and Luz DeJesus were selected as class representatives.



Instructor Mike Horne teaches proper hand-cuffing technique



PO Braughler practices his form on PO VanAmburgh

Comments and Suggestions

THE PAROLE REPORT is written and edited by the staff of the Office of Media Relations and Public Affairs. Anyone in the Division with story ideas or suggestions is asked to contact us at (518) 486-4631 or e-mail Mark Johnson, Director of Media Relations, at mjohnson@parole.state.ny.us.

Sentencing Reform Commission Issues Preliminary Report

New York State should create new determinate sentences for the more than 200 non-violent felony offenses, allow courts to send some non-violent drug-addicted felony offenders to community-based treatment instead of state prison and adopt a "risk and needs" assessment instrument to help judges and corrections authorities more accurately estimate the actual risk posed by an offender.

Those were among the conclusions reached in a preliminary report issued in October by the New York State Commission on Sentencing Reform. The Commission was created under an Executive Order issued by Governor Eliot Spitzer last March.

The Commission, headed by Division of Criminal Justice Services Commissioner Denise O'Donnell, held numerous public hearings over several months in gathering information for its report.

The preliminary report recommended that the state develop more efficient and cost-effective ways to use correctional and community supervision resources by examining alternatives for dealing with the thousands of parole rule violators who are returned to state prisons annually. The panel suggested re-allocating correctional resources from low-risk to high-risk offenders, and adopting targeted reforms to improve the likelihood of successful re-entry for the approximately 26,000 felony offenders who return

from prison to New York's communities each year.

Under the commission's recommendations, the state would create new determinate sentences for the more than 200 non-violent felony offenses that now carry an indeterminate sentence, while reserving indeterminate sentences only for the most serious offenses that now carry a life maximum, as well as for certain persistent felony offenders.

"The Commission believes that a sentencing structure must be intelligible, honest and fair. The public, as well as the defendant and the victim, should have a clear understanding of the actual term of the sentence to be served," the report stated.

The commission, however, was not unanimous on this point.

Chairman Alexander, in a written dissent, said that the removal of indeterminate sentences for many offenses would eliminate incentives for prisoner rehabilitation as well as crime victims' right to express their thoughts on an inmate's release to the Board of Parole.

"When a felony offender's possibility of release is tied to their successful participation in programs, I think we can all agree that when their release does occur, we as a state have cultivated and assessed key benchmarks that demonstrate an inmate's readiness to take on the myriad of responsibilities that attend their return to our communities and parole supervision," Chairman

Alexander wrote.

Other Commission recommendations included moving the many provisions of New York law governing crime victims to a single article of law so that crime victims, judges and practitioners can readily find a list of all victim-related statutes. The panel also recommended creating a permanent Commission on Sentencing Reform.

The Commission heard from a broad array of experts - both state and national - who provided insight into topics such as New York's complex sentencing provisions, reentry, community based correctional and sentencing practices, alternatives to incarceration, the impact of sentencing on crime victims, and strategies for reducing prison populations and reinvesting in communities.

The Commission also received input from representatives of the judicial, defense, prosecutorial and victim advocate communities.

The group is slated to issue a final report on its work this winter.

Any changes to New York's sentencing structure would have to be approved by Governor Spitzer and the Legislature.



SOMU Training Info Available on Public Drive

The Division's Sex Offender Management Unit has created a "SOMU TRAINING" materials folder that staff can now access on the Public drive.

The information contains a significant set of materials provided by OSOM from the recent Dennis Doren training on Civil Commitment and other literature related to

sex offender risk assessment. To access the materials, staffers should:

- *Open the p drive
- *Look for the SOMU training folder
- *Select and open the folder.
- *The Doren training bibliography appears on the screen. The popup window at the bottom in-

cludes a "type of file" drop down.

*Click and choose "ALL FILES". this will bring up numerous separate pdf's in this file.

*Select any file you want to see by double-clicking on that file.

For assistance with any of the materials, contact SOMU at (518) 473-5572

Parole Officers and Employees Remembered

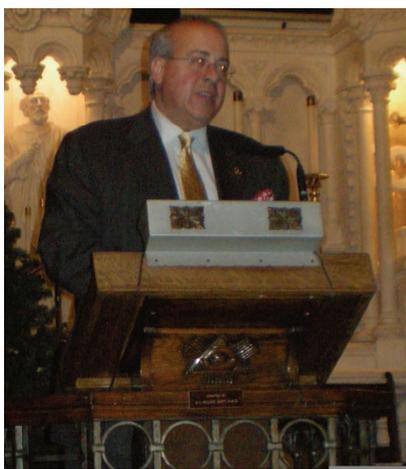
The Division of Parole on Dec. 14 remembered 10 active and retired employees who passed away during the previous 12 months.

Dozens of current and former employees attended the Division's Annual Memorial Service, held at the Church of the Holy Cross on West 42nd Street in Manhattan.

"Our officers put their lives on the line on a daily basis and know they may have to make the ultimate sacrifice in carrying out their responsibilities. Some have. Society owes all of them an infinite amount of appreciation for the hard work they do," Chairman Alexander said in his remarks at the hour-long service.

The Rev. Peter Colapietro provided the ceremony's opening prayer while Rabbi Jay H. Rosenbaum provided words of comfort and healing.

Other speakers included Parole Officer Manuelita Clemente, Parole Revocation Specialist H. Susan Jeffords, and Stuart Jay Levine of the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 27.



Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum

Those lost in the past year were:
 APA Deborah L Boyd of the Bureau of Special Service.

PRS I Marisa St. John of Manhattan V.

PO Martin Goldberg of Queens III

PO Walter Stevens of Brooklyn V.

PO Elsie Hughes of Bronx I

KBS Mary Van De Wal of Central Office

APA Floy Crosby of Brooklyn III

PO Larry McMillion of the Peekskill office

Retired PO Stephen Reinisch of Bronx V

Retired PO Ed Harkins of the Albany Area Office.

May their memories be held Sacred
 Their Stories Often told
 Serving to Remind us all
 Of these Principals we hold.

While Touched by their lives
 And saddened by their loss

We are better for having known them
 These heroes of Parole.

Summit (Continued from page 3)

management laws and practices, along with the role of the polygraph. Counsel Terrence Tracy provided an overview of legal issues confronting the Division, while other executive staffers gave overviews of policy analysis, cultural diversity, computer systems and the Division's portrayal in the media.

Area supervisors got a chance to tell their concerns to the Executive Staff, expressing their hope for more two-way communication with upper level managers in the years to come.

Senior Parole Officers William Fortune and Mulbah Coleman and Parole Officer Detrel Howell were invited to tell their stories,

sharing the tactics, attitudes and ideas they've used to successfully do their jobs supervising parolees.

University of Cincinnati Profes-



Chairman Alexander and staffers at the Summit

sor Edward Latessa made a three-hour presentation on reentry, showing how programs that address be-

havior can be effective in reducing recidivism while dispelling myths about other programs that garner press attention, but fall short on results.

"I was very pleased with the input and participation of everyone who attended the summit," said Chairman Alexander.

"We were able to connect and communicate in a meaningful way over the course of the event and I believe we have set the right tone as we move forward with our initiatives to boost the successful reentry of former prison inmates into our communities across the state."

The chairman said he hopes to hold similar gatherings in the future.

NYS DIVISION OF PAROLE

Office of Media Relations
97 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12206

Phone: 518-486-4631
Fax: 518-473-6037
E-mail: mjohnson@parole.state.ny.us

Governor Eliot Spitzer

Executive Staff

George B. Alexander, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Parole
Felix Rosa, Executive Director
Terrence Tracy, Chief Counsel
Jeffrey Nesich, Director of Administration
Angela Jimenez, Director of Downstate Operations
Timothy O'Brien, Director of Upstate Operations
Michael Buckman, Director of Policy Analysis
Larry Hammond, Director of Information Technology Services
Lynn Goodman, Director of Re-Entry Services
Jose Burgos, Director of Human Resources Management
Mark Johnson, Director of Media Relations
Marc Coppola, Director of Legislative Affairs

The New York State Division of Parole's mission is to promote public safety by preparing inmates for release and supervising parolees to ensure their successful reentry back to communities across the State.

The Division consists of nearly 2,100 employees working in its Central Office in Albany, 50 field offices and 61 Department of Corrections facilities statewide.

The Division is responsible for the community supervision and reentry of offenders released from state correctional facilities by the Board of Parole, by conditional release or those sentenced to Parole supervision.

The Board of Parole consists of up to 19 members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Commissioners serve six-year terms.

The Parole Report is published quarterly by the Division of Parole's Media Relations Staff.

Alert Officer Nabs Parole Violator at Fairgrounds

Parole Officer Wayne Martin's trip to the Grahamsville fairgrounds in Sullivan County this fall turned out more eventful than he had anticipated.

Officer Martin, stationed at the Division's Poughkeepsie Area Office, was accompanying his grandchildren to the annual Pumpkin Party when he spotted one of his parolees, Gary Fulton, a level 3 sex offender, wandering the fairgrounds.

The party draws hundreds of local residents each year, many of them children.

Martin watched as Fulton, released to parole supervision at the end of August, walked up to the area where the children, dressed in costumes, had gathered for a parade and costume contest.

"I saw him walk by up to where all the 8-, 9- and 10 year olds were getting

judged for their costumes," Martin said. "I thought, 'he's out of his mind for being here. This is definitely the wrong place for him.'"

"I thought, 'he's out of his mind for being here. This is definitely the wrong place for him.'"

Martin quickly alerted Sgt. Luis Alvarez of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, who was standing nearby. Martin and Alvarez pulled Fulton aside and questioned him before Alvarez took Fulton into custody without incident. Fulton was charged with violating

the condition of his parole preventing him from having any contact with children under the age of 18.

"PO Martin's diligent actions stand as a reflection of the good work he does on a day-to-day basis and, moreover, that of his fellow officers across the state who provide extra "eyes and ears" serving to protect the community from potential predators," Poughkeepsie Area Supervisor Fred Flood said.

The incident, detailed in several local news outlets, gained Martin praise from unlikely sources, some of his own parolees.

"It was a little bizarre," he said.

Fulton, a level three sex offender, was returned to state prison following violation proceedings.

Fulton is serving a sentence of five years in state prison with a five years of post-release supervision.