



NEW YORK STATE SENATE SENATORS LUIS SEPULVEDA AND GUSTAVO RIVERA
RANKING MEMBERS OF
THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CRIME VICTIMS, CRIME AND CORRECTIONS
AND
THE SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC FORUM
ON NEW YORK STATE'S PAROLE HEARINGS,
STRUCTURE OF PAROLE BOARD AND DATA
INDICATING SYSTEMATIC BIAS IN THE PAROLE
BOARD'S DECISION-MAKING

SUBJECT: Review of the processes being carried out for parole hearings, the structure of the parole board and data indicating systematic bias in the parole board's decision-making.

PURPOSE: To examine the statutory procedures parole board members are following, the adequacy of the current structure of the parole board and the impact of its decisions of granting parole as it relates to racial disparities in those decisions.

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Senate Hearing Room

250 Broadway

New York, NY 10011

In December of 2016, The New York Times published an in-depth investigative report that stated, "The racial disparity in parole decisions in the state is perhaps the most dramatic manifestation of a broken system. Intended as a progressive tool to promote good behavior, parole has devolved into a hurried, often chaotic procedure." It reported that the parole board has not been fully staffed for years and rarely sees an incarcerated individual in person. The reporting documented how "the whole process is run like an assembly line," and parole board members hear cases just two days a week and see as many as 80 individuals in that time.

The Board members are mainly from upstate and tend to have backgrounds in law enforcement rather than rehabilitation. Most are white; there are currently five blacks, and one Latino on the Board. In light of the New York Times report and recent data from reform advocates on parole decisions, a review of the current system and proposed legislative remedies will be held.

Anyone wishing to testify or attend the forum must complete and return the form below no later than Friday, November 9th, 2018.

Oral testimony is by invitation only.

Questions about this public forum may be directed to Guillermo Martinez or Anton Konev, at (518) 455-2511 or gmatine@nysenate.gov or konev@nysenate.gov

Persons wishing to present a written statement to the forum should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation. Ten (10) copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the forum registration desk. The Ranking Minority members would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

PUBLIC FORUM REPLY FORM

Persons who would like an invitation to testify at or who plan to attend the public forum on November 27th, 2018 are requested to **complete this reply form by Friday, November 9th, 2018** and mail, email, or fax it to:

Guillermo Martinez
Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Luis Sepulveda
And
Anton Konev, Director of Legislative Affairs to Senator Luis Sepulveda
New York State Senate
608 Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247
(t) 518-455-2511 (f) 518-426-6645 (e) gmartine@nysenate.gov or konev@nysenate.gov

- I plan to attend the public forum on November 27th, 2018.
- I would like to be invited to make a public statement at the forum. My statement will be limited to three (3) minutes and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide one electronic copy (as a Word or PDF document) to Guillermo Martinez and Anton Konev by Friday, November 16th, 2018 and bring 10 copies with me to the hearing.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- In accordance with State and Federal law, the New York State Legislature seeks to make its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals with disabilities, upon request. If you will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information, **please specify the type of assistance required:**

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____