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November 2, 2016

Mujahid Farid, RAPP  
Correctional Association of New York  
2090 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blve., #200  
New York, NY 10027

Dear Mr. Farid,

I am writing today to weigh in on the proposed regulation changes to 8002.1, 8002.2 and 8002.3 of Title 9NYCRR and Executive Law, sec. 259-c(4),(11) and 259-i.

I am a person who is tearfully remorseful and numb at times for the crimes of murder and burglary that I committed. I have been incarcerated for over 32 years on a twenty to life sentence. At sentencing the Judge stated, "It is my responsibility...to fit a term of imprisonment that...will legitimately serve the interest that I am charged with advancing. It is my judgement...that you will serve 20 years before you are released."

Unfortunately, I have done 12 plus years beyond my minimum, and this has taken place with an exemplary institutional and disciplinary record, family support, community support and offers of employment. My friends, family and I are at our wits end with the contentious illegalities of the Parole Board decisions.

Therefore, I believe that the new regulations must strongly direct the board to base its decisions on evidence-based criteria and release people who have demonstrated low risk and readiness for release. Also, the boards, decision must be based on assessing the person currently in front of them today, rather than their crime of conviction.

The idea of new regulations are important to my family and me, due to my appearance history, including nine hearings; two of which were de novos as a result of illegalities, such as identical decisions in subsequent hearings and reliance on erroneous non-existence community opposition, which is why new regulations are needed.

In my most recent hearing, held on August 30, 2016, I was denied again in spite of the Assistant District Attorney's recommendation for my release to parole supervision. The alarming fact is that the denial is based on community opposition, an issue previously reversed by the by Albany County Supreme Court in my case.

Additionally, the appalling fact is that two of the commissioners who sat on my March 2016 administrative appeal, held August 5, 2016, were on my August 30, 2016 de novo hearing. One was Elovich, who did not want me to have a new hearing. How was she allowed to sit on the panel? Change is needed for all the above mentioned reasons.

Today the need for reform is knocking at the door of mass incarceration, and the only hope we have is in these new regulations. It is our prayer that this antiquated parole system moves beyond its failures to re-establish its original intent, which was to create a reasonable expectation of parole when a minimum sentence was fixed; thereby allowing us to be restored back to our families and communities.

Sincerely,

Eddie Williams

