

Robert Watt, 87A7034  
Fishkill Correctional Facility  
PO Box 1245  
Beacon, New York 12508

To:

Kathleen M. Kiley, Counsel to the Board of Parole,  
John Koury, Director, ARRC,  
Mujahid Farid, Correctional Association of New York

Dear Ms. Kiley, Mr. Koury and Mr. Farid,

The Commissioners appointed to the New York Parole Board should, at a minimum: Release those applicants who appear before them who have spent decades in prison and who have demonstrated their ability to abide by all existing rules and regulations, who have successfully completed all mandated therapeutic programs addressing their previous anti-social behavior (i.e. ART, ASAT, AVP, etc...), and whose continued incarceration now serves no purpose - neither protecting public safety nor advancing further personal growth or rehabilitation.

When an applicant appears before the parole board at the age of 73, 75, 77 years of age or older, and who has served at least the 25-year minimum of his 25 to life sentence without any disciplinary infractions, who has successfully completed AVP-1, AVP-2 and AVP Training for Trainers, ART, ASAT, who has presented letters of support from both family and friends, and most importantly from the Superintendent of his Correctional Facility - a career officer who rose through the ranks to become the Superintendent of a facility housing 1700 inmates - a man who demonstratively has the experience to personally recommend for release only those inmates who are worthy; then this applicant should have a reasonable expectation of being released. When certain goals are set and certain behavior and decorum is demanded, and when daily interaction with officers, civilian staff and other prisoners all attest to these goals and demands having been met consistently throughout the term of his incarceration, then that applicant should have earned a presumption of release to parole supervision.

If the people of New York want to incarcerate certain individuals for life, then they should petition their respective legislators to change to law to allow for sentences of "life without parole" to be handed down by the sentencing judge when he or she deems in appropriate.

Parole decisions that use only some colmbination of the three sentences currently employed make no sense, nor should be accepted where there is no basis found within the applicant's record or during the interview to warrant such state-ments.

These sentences are some variation of:

1. If released at this time you will not be able to remain at liberty without violating the law.
2. Your release at this time would deprecate the seriousness of the offense.
3. Your release at this time is incompatible with the welfare and safety of society.

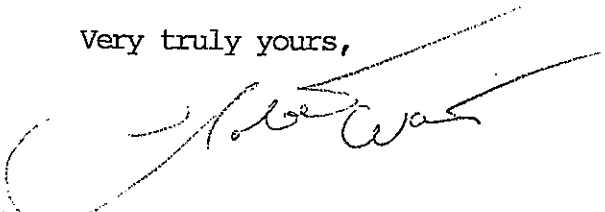
These comments should be disallowed when their is not one iota of substance or evidence to be found within the record of the applicant being so denied. Reasons for parole denial must be 'comprehensive' and 'exhaustive' and must be drawn from the record and the interview.

It is known that a study be the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) provided that recidivism rates for people who have served long sentences for the most serious crimes, specifically murder, are exceptionally low - less than 1% of these people return on a new conviction.

It is also known that recidivism rates for those 60 years of age or older are also low, as are the rates for those who have college degrees. These people as a class pose no identifiable risk to society and should therefore be released.

I thank you for your interest in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. ...", is written over the closing text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.