New York State Commission on Sentencing Reform

Public Hearing in Albany November 15, 2007

Page 2

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	COMMISSION MEMBERS:
3	Commissioner Denise E. O'Donnell, Co-chair
4	George B. Alexander
	Anthony Annucci, Esq.
5	Assemblymember Joseph Lentol
	Michael P. McDermott, Esq.
6	Cyrus Vance, Jr. Esq.
	Wendy Lehman, Esq.
7	
	SPEAKERS:
8	
	Robert Maccarone.
9	James Murphy
	Rocco Pozzi
10	Mark Furnish
	James Tuffey
11	Alice Green
	Fr. Peter Young
12	Larry Flanagan
	Alison Coleman
13	Michael Ranalli
	Tana Agostini
14	Patricia Gioia
	Julie McClurkin
15	Karen Carpenter-Palumbo
	Joyce Hartwell
16	Calton Pulliam
	Bernard Fleishman
17	Tom Morrison
	Courtney Ramirez
18	Robb Smith
	Robert Carney
19	
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21	
22	
23	

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Page 3

Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007 1 2 Susan Antos Lorraine Barde 3 Yusef Williams Patricia Durham Randy Credico 4 5 ALSO PRESENT: 6 Assemblymember David Gantt Assemblymember David Koon Assemblymember Jeffrion L. Aubry 7 Paul Korotkin Sharon Malloy 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

		Page 4
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	(The hearing commenced at 9:44	
3	a.m.)	
4	MS. O'DONNELL: My name is Denise	
5	O'Donnell, I have the privilege of chairing the	
6	Commission on Sentencing Reform and I want to	
7	welcome you and thank you for coming to attend our	
8	hearing. We are, each of us on the Commission are	
9	very, very interested in receiving feedback from	
10	the public about our preliminary report, which I	
11	hope you read, which is available online at the	
12	D.C.J.S. Web site and we have copies available	
13	here.	
14	This is our opportunity to hear	
15	from you, our work is far from done. So, it's	
16	important that we have input from the public, from	
17	advocates for different groups, from the	
18	educational community, the legal community, the law	
19	enforcement community and and private citizens	
20	who care about our sentencing laws.	
21	I would like to begin by asking	
22	our commissioners, or their authorized delegates,	
23	to introduce themselves, and I will start to my	
24	right.	

		Page 5
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	MR. ANNUCCI: Good morning, I'm	
3	Tony Annucci, deputy commissioner and counsel,	
4	executive deputy commissioner with DOCS, and I'm	
5	representing Commissioner Brian Fischer.	
6	MR. ALEXANDER: Good morning, I'm	
7	George Alexander, chairman and chief executive	
8	officer of New York State Division of Parole.	
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Denise O'Donnell.	
10	MR. VANCE: Cy Vance, I'm an	
11	attorney in private practice in New York City.	
12	MR. MCDERMOTT: Mike McDermott, I	
13	am an attorney in private practice here in Albany.	
14	MR. LENTOL: I'm Assemblyman Joe	
15	Lentol.	
16	MS. LEHMAN: I'm Wendy Lehman,	
17	I'm an assistant district attorney, I'm here on	
18	behalf of Commissioner Mike Green, the district	
19	attorney of Monroe County.	
20	MS. O'DONNELL: Now, we have a	
21	very tight time frame, I'm sorry to say, we have	
22	allotted all of our speakers ten minutes, because	
23	that allows us to hear from as many speakers as	
24	possible, and we do have a large number of people	
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Page 6

2who want to speak to us today. We do have a3timekeeper here, who will help us keep time.4And I would like to begin by5introducing Robert Maccarone, our illustrious6director of the Division of or the Department of7Probation and Correctional Alternatives here in New8York, and a leader in in the field of community9supervision and reentry.10Bob?11MR. MACCARONE: Good morning,12Commissioner, and thank you. My name is Robert13Maccarone, as you have said, and I'm testifying14today as the state director of the Division of15Probation and Correctional Alternatives, and I'm16going to go very quickly.17I'm going to read to you the18annotated version of my remarks, I'm submitting19fifteen copies of a more complete system bless20you of comments. I also serviced as chair of21the subcommittee on supervision in the community,22which rendered its report to the honorable members23of this commission on August 22nd of this year.24In this very brief time this	1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
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	24	In this very brief time this

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	morning I want to accomplish two objectives. The
3	first is to recognize the extraordinary efforts of
4	the Commissioner Chair Commissioner and
5	Assistant Deputy Secretary Denise O'Donnell, all
6	the members of the Commission on Sentencing Reform,
7	the members of its four subcommittees, the
8	executive director and the Commission's
9	knowledgeable and professional staff.
10	Producing the Commission report,
11	the future of sentencing in New York State, a
12	preliminary proposal for reform was, an enormous
13	undertaking that resulted in important blueprint
14	for shaping future sentencing reform and practices
15	in New York State. So, first, I want to
16	congratulate you on that.
17	I also want to highlight, of
18	course, the work of probation and community
19	correction agencies in New York State. I urge the
20	Commission to carefully examine the importance of
21	New York State maintaining a strong probation and
22	community correction system to early identify both
23	the risk and needs of offenders and address them in
24	the community as an effective alternative to costly
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Page 8

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	incarceration in local jails and state prison.
3	Probation is the sentence in
4	in nearly forty percent of convicted felony
5	offender dispositions in New York State. I say
6	this emphasizing the fact that the goal of
7	probation in community correction agencies is to
8	reduce recidivism and enhance public safety by
9	holding offenders accountable and providing them
10	the services to assist them in changing their
11	behavior to become a law-abiding residents of New
12	York State.
13	Probation is the original
13 14	Probation is the original alternatives to incarceration. The state's 58
14	alternatives to incarceration. The state's 58
14 15	alternatives to incarceration. The state's 58 local probation department supervise one hundred
14 15 16	alternatives to incarceration. The state's 58 local probation department supervise one hundred and twenty-five thousand adult offenders, twice the
14 15 16 17	alternatives to incarceration. The state's 58 local probation department supervise one hundred and twenty-five thousand adult offenders, twice the number of offenders incarcerated in state prison
14 15 16 17 18	alternatives to incarceration. The state's 58 local probation department supervise one hundred and twenty-five thousand adult offenders, twice the number of offenders incarcerated in state prison and a population that is greater than both the
14 15 16 17 18 19	alternatives to incarceration. The state's 58 local probation department supervise one hundred and twenty-five thousand adult offenders, twice the number of offenders incarcerated in state prison and a population that is greater than both the state prison and parole populations combined.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	alternatives to incarceration. The state's 58 local probation department supervise one hundred and twenty-five thousand adult offenders, twice the number of offenders incarcerated in state prison and a population that is greater than both the state prison and parole populations combined. Fifty percent of the probationers
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	alternatives to incarceration. The state's 58 local probation department supervise one hundred and twenty-five thousand adult offenders, twice the number of offenders incarcerated in state prison and a population that is greater than both the state prison and parole populations combined. Fifty percent of the probationers are felons, eleven percent are violent felony

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	In addition to the community
3	supervision function, probation departments
4	complete one hundred and thirty thousand
5	presentence investigation reports each year for the
6	courts.
7	As you know the presentence
8	investigation report is an important document for
9	sentencing courts as well as state prison and
10	parole authorities, while it's not within the
11	purview of this Commission to address the needs of
12	the juvenile justice system in New York State - God
13	knows you have a large enough task - I do want to
14	take this opportunity to advice you that the
15	probation departments perform a very critical
16	function in family court managing some fifty
17	thousand intakes annually, completing thirty
18	thousand predispositional investigations and
19	reports, and supervising seventeen thousand
20	juvenile delinquents and persons in need of
21	supervision. Indeed, the importance of that family
22	court cannot be overemphasized, for it is there
23	that the needs of troubled youths and families are
24	first identified.

Page 10

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	In addition to regulating and
3	providing state aid to local probation departments,
4	D.P.C.A. also set standards and provides funding to
5	the State's nearly two hundred alternatives to
6	incarceration programs. Over a half of which are
7	operated by probation departments, including
8	pretrial and community service programs. Other
9	A.T.I. program models include TASC, treatment
10	alternatives for a safer community, defender-based
11	advocacy and drug and alcohol treatment programs.
12	In 2006 the A.T.I. programs managed forty-two
13	thousand five hundred and ninety-nine offenders in
14	varying capacities.
15	In a letter dated August 28th,
16	2007, I wrote to the chair of the Commission on
17	Sentencing Reform, a copy of which I have attached
18	to my remarks today. I outline the important work
19	of probation and the challenges posed by high
20	caseloads and disparate service levels throughout
21	the state. I also reiterated the importance of the
22	presentence investigation and report and the
23	problems caused by the common practice of waiving
24	this important report as part of the judicial and
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Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
sentencing process.
Today I am submitting for your
information and consideration, a copy of a report
entitled probation staffing and caseload survey
2006, a detailed report that was produced by
D.P.C.A. in early August of 2007. This report
reflects a very detailed survey of probation
departments, and how they allocate resources to the
adult and family court systems and investigation
and supervision functions.
In this report current caseloads
in New York State are compared with national
standards set forth by the American Probation and
Parole Association. While the primary focus of the
Commission is sentencing reform, the results of
sentencing reform and potential for increased
dependence on community corrections must, I would
argue, cause us to ensure that programs are
available, accessible and effective.
Apart from the outcome of the
work of the Commission, the current reality is that
the probation system is overburdened. One of the
strengths of probation in New York State is the
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Page 12

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	system of state regulation. The state regulation
3	and leadership model does not exist in all states,
4	and in many states with very high state prison
5	populations. State regulation has provided a
6	system of differential supervision albeit this is
7	impacted by probation funding and varying caseload
8	sizes.
9	Notwithstanding these
10	limitations, probation cases are classified as
11	level one, two, three or four administrative and
12	supervised under a system of varying personal and
13	collateral context including job and home visits
14	with the offender.
15	The current system of
16	classification is based on a rather simple and
17	dated classification system, the DP70. Probation
18	recognizes the importance of differential
19	supervision and the importance of resource
20	allocation. D.P.C.A., in collaboration with local
21	probation departments is quickly moving probation
22	practice in New York State toward a system that is
23	evidence based.
24	During the last year D.P.C.A. has

Page 13

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	implemented the use of the New York COMPAS an
3	evidence-based risk and need actuarial assessment
4	tool for use with adult probationers. It already
5	has implemented a fully validated risk and need
6	assessment tool, the YASI in fifty-five counties in
7	New York State.
8	The COMPAS adult risk and need
9	actuarial assessment tool was written by probation
10	officers for probation officers in New York State.
11	It was also written with the input and assistance
12	of parole authorities to ensure that New York State
13	would build a system of consistent and continual
14	assessment, with the intent that information be
15	shared by probation, correction and parole
16	authorities.
17	Since April of 2007 D.P.C.A. has
18	worked intensively with its vendor Northpoint local
19	probation departments to train probation officers
20	in the use of this new assessment tool. Our goal
21	is to have every probation officer using the New
22	York COMPAS by January 2008, when the outdated
23	D.P.C.A. classification tool will be terminated.
24	I note that the Dutchess County

Page 14

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	is currently using the LSI-R instrument, a fully
3	validated instrument, but utilizes the pretrial
4	services screen of COMPAS, and most recently the
5	New York City Department of Probation commenced
6	using the New York COMPAS with its high-risk
7	population. As of this date the New York COMPAS is
8	being utilized by nine hundred and fifty probation
9	officers in forty-five probation departments, and
10	they have completed thirteen thousand five hundred
11	assessments.
12	The use of risk and need
13	actuarial assessment tools is, indeed, the
14	cornerstone of evidence-based practice. The
15	empirical information derived from the use of a
16	fully validated risk and need instrument for
17	assessment and reassessment will inform the
18	probation practice on how best to allocate
19	resources to the highest-risk populations, provide
20	information how best to reshape the supervision
21	regulation from its current system of quantitative
22	context to qualitative interventions, and provide
23	the basis for the development of recommended
24	caseload standards here in New York State.

		Page 15
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	1
2	Lastly, the assessment process	
3	will assist probation officers in developing	
4	meaningful case plans for offenders, empower	
5	them and empower them to better assess the	
6	effect the effectiveness of community-based drug	
7	and alcohol and mental health programs.	
8	Today I'm providing the	
9	Commission with two important documents that	
10	support probations used with the New York COMPAS:	
11	The COMPAS psychometric report for the D.P.C.A.	
12	pilot and the COMPAS reclassification scale	
13	validation. And I have copies for the Commission	
14	here.	
15	D.P.C.A. is working intensively	
16	with probation departments and alternatives to	
17	incarceration programs to increase offender	
18	accountability and ensure a system of measurable	
19	outcomes. In probation ten-year cohort recidivism	
20	studies produced by D.C.J.S. staff are shared with	
21	probation departments to track performance. These	
22	detailed reports by county and the City of New York	
23	are available through the D.P.C.A. Web site. One	
24	of our growing concerns is the gradual increase in	
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	probationer recidivism, as measured by felony
3	rearrest from twelve point seven to thirteen point
4	one percent.
5	Increasingly, the probationer
6	population grows more violent and younger in age.
7	In fact, twenty-eight percent of the adult
8	probationer population is sixteen twenty to
9	twenty-one years of age. Fifty percent of the
10	adult probationers are convicted of felony
11	offenses, and in New York City that number is
12	sixty-seven percent.
13	D.P.C.A. and the local probation
14	departments are working with the National Institute
15	of Corrections, N.I.C., to increase probationer
16	employment another measurable outcome. Probation
17	employment rates around the state differ
18	significantly for a variety of reasons, including
19	economic conditions in employment sectors and types
20	of jobs that are available.
21	Employment is, indeed, a critical
22	factor in assisting offenders to change their
23	behavior and reducing recidivism. While somewhat
24	attenuated from the strict review of sentencing
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 17

Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
reform, I would hope that the commissioner would
have the opportunity in the future to look at the
laws affecting offender employment, a very
important issue.
I can talk about it and I'll
end, I could talk about what we're doing with
N.I.C. in implementing the national model of
offender workforce development, and in fact, today
in New York City N.I.C., the National Institute of
Corrections, is on site with the New York City
Department of Probation, in training our offender
development workforce development specialists to
become statewide instructors. We no longer have to
send folks across the country to get that training.
Perhaps the single most important
thing that I want to say today in this last minute
is offender accountability. It requires a
probation officer's time, smaller caseloads, a
probation officer's guidance and the capacity to
respond swiftly and certainly to violative
behavior.
In describing the process of the
drug court, your preliminary report notes that it
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Page 18

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	allows the judge to react quickly to that
3	misconduct or noncompliance; and in describing the
4	continuum of sanctions available to probation
5	officers the report notes that pro officers need to
6	have appropriate and effective options to reinforce
7	positive behavior and to address rule violations.
8	Probation officers, too, need the
9	authority of the court behind them to enforce those
10	conditions. And we have two recommendations for
11	the Commission, which you will read in the written
12	testimony: One is judicial review of warrants
13	within seventy-two hours, and second is the
14	timely excuse me, scheduling of probation
15	violation hearings.
16	In conclusion, I want to tell you
17	that probation is important to New York State as
18	well as the alternatives to incarceration programs.
19	They are uniquely well-positioned and court
20	authorized to cost effectively manage large numbers
21	of offenders in the community, while they have the
22	supports of family, employment and housing.
23	The challenge of reentry in New
24	York State. As every other state, is exacerbated

Page 19

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	by offender disenfranchisement, offenders lose
3	these essential community supports, restoring them
4	to offenders is costly and difficult, it is far
5	better from both a cost and public safety
6	perspective that we succeed with offenders at the
7	earliest point in time and while they are in the
8	community.
9	MS. O'DONNELL: You're going to
10	have to wrap it up.
11	MR. MACCARONE: I thank you.
12	MS. O'DONNELL: Okay. Thank you
13	very much. And Director Maccarone, I really want
14	to thank you for chairing our subcommittee on
15	supervision in the community, and recognize the
16	important role that probation has played in
17	implementing, a risk/needs instrument, the COMPAS
18	instrument an evidence-based practice, which is one
19	of our principal recommendations in our preliminary
20	report, so thank you very much.
21	MR. MACCARONE: Thank you.
22	MS. O'DONNELL: I also want to
23	recognize Paul Korotkin and I saw him in the crowd
24	here, who is the chief researcher at the Department

Page 20

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	of Corrections and has been instrumental in
3	supplying many much of the data that has gone
4	into our report.
5	I want to recognize Assemblyman
6	David Gantt who has joined
7	FROM THE FLOOR: Koon David
8	Koon.
9	MS. O'DONNELL: who who has
10	joined us and welcome. Our next speaker is James
11	Murphy, the president of the New York State
12	District Attorneys Association.
13	Welcome D.A. Murphy.
14	MR. MURPHY: Thank you
15	Commissioner. And its pleasure to be here this
16	morning to address you and the members of the
17	Commission.
18	On behalf of the sixty-two
19	district attorneys in New York, I'm pleased to
20	present this testimony to the members of the
21	Commission on Sentencing Reform.
22	As career prosecutors we know the
23	tremendously important role that sentencing plays
24	within the New York State Criminal Justice System
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		Page 21
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	and how it helps to make all New Yorkers safer.	
3	I'm going to give you kind of an	
4	abbreviated version of my submitted testimony,	
5	which I submitted thirty copies to Ms. Bianchi	
6	earlier this morning. I just want to touch on some	
7	of the highlights that I think are important to the	
8	District Attorneys Association.	
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.	
10	MR. MURPHY: I also want to thank	
11	Governor Spitzer, and you, Commissioner O'Donnell,	
12	for having the wisdom and force to taken on an	
13	important thing as sentencing reform within the	
14	first term of the governor's administration. I	
15	think that's a tremendous thing that you are doing,	
16	and I don't know how you found the time between all	
17	the other roles that you have as well.	
18	Every New York State prosecutor	
19	is proud of the incredible accomplishments of New	
20	York, which is now the fifth safest state in the	
21	nation. I hope that we can overtake the next	
22	state, the state which I think is Vermont, so I	
23	think that says a lot about what we're doing here	
24	in New York already.	

		Page 22
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	8
2	And as you have pointed out in	
3	your preliminary proposal for reform New York State	
4	has achieved this ranking at the same time that the	
5	state prisons have enjoyed a substantial decrease	
6	in inmate population. We are the only large state	
7	that has achieved this success and one of the	
8	handful of states that have simultaneously reduced	
9	incarceration and crime. This shows that our	
10	criminal justice system is working very well. And	
11	while it is important to continue to aspire to do	
12	better, it is equally important not to make changes	
13	that could reverse this positive hard-won trend of	
14	less crime and fewer inmates.	
15	For the next minute I would like	
16	to address some of the issues raised in your	
17	proposal specifically their impact upon prosecutors	
18	in the criminal justice system. We all agree on	
19	the one goal of making our community safer for	
20	all New Yorkers. To the extent that we can make	
21	change that does not adversely affect public	
22	safety, the association will support some of the	
23	progressive concepts of your proposal. Conversely,	
24	if we believe that any changes suggested in your	
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing	800 523 7887

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	proposal might take make New York a less safe
3	place, then we will ask for more evaluation
4	evaluation, research and discussion.
5	Let me talk first about
6	determinate sentencing. The movement toward
7	determinate sentencing that began in 1995 has
8	always made good sense to prosecutors. Determinate
9	sentencing allows prosecutors to negotiate
10	sentences with a high degree of certainty as to the
11	time that defendant will serve before release. It
12	also provides corrections with the ability to
13	formulate inmate programming with the knowledge of
14	when release is most likely, any further change
15	toward determinate sentences, however, must include
16	sentence ranges that are realistically related to
17	the severity of the crime, and do not put
18	prosecutors at a disadvantage during plea
19	negotiations.
20	I agree with the Commission that
21	the current indeterminate sentences for nondrug
22	class A-one and class A-two offenses should
23	continue. These are the most serious crimes in New
24	York State and public safety requires that if these
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing

Page 23

Page 24

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	inmates are released at all they should be
3	supervised for life. This life supervision allows
4	the Division of Parole to ensure public safety and
5	return these offenders to prison for violation of
6	their terms of release.
7	Although I have carefully
8	reviewed the analysis of Chairman George Alexander
9	of the Division of Parole, set forth in the
10	appendix in support of continuing indeterminate
11	sentencing I still believe that a determinate
12	sentencing structure is best. There is a great
13	deal of vital work that Parole would still be
14	required to do including crime victim impact
15	hearings, establishing conditions for release of
16	all inmates returning to the community under Parole
17	supervision, and the critical determination as to
18	when parolees who have violated their conditions of
19	parole should be returned to prison.
20	Freeing the parole board from the
21	workload created by the current indeterminate
22	sentencing scheme, would allow the Parole members
23	to spend I'm sorry would allow the Parole Board
24	members to spend more time on these critical

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	components of their responsibilities.
3	Let me touch on further drug
4	sentencing reform. In the past fifteen years there
5	has been at least four substantial modifications of
6	New York's Drug Laws. Some of the changes have
7	eliminated life sentences, reduced the length of
8	sentences and doubled the minimum quantities of the
9	illegal drugs required for conviction.
10	The sentencing commission clearly
11	appears to be seeking discussions to further reduce
12	the penalties for some drug felonies. The
13	Association strongly opposes any further change in
14	the drug laws that would reduce penalties, and
15	particularly the proposal to eliminate the
16	mandatory incarceration provision upon a conviction
17	for a class B felony without judicial,
18	proscecutorial and defense consent.
19	Our opposition arises from what
20	we have learned directly from our drug court
21	defendants themselves, who have consistently told
22	us that treatment works best when it is mandated by
23	a court with with a real promise of
24	incarceration for failure to say for failure to

Page 26

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	complete the program. And we hear that time and
3	time again from the people who have graduated from
4	drug treatment courses, that were not for the fact
5	that they were facing incarceration, they would not
6	be the success that they were that day and be
7	graduates, because of the impetus of the giant
8	carrot and the giant stick that keeps them in those
9	programs and keeps them free and clean and sober.
10	As I previously stated in my
11	budget letter to Governor Spitzer, prosecutors have
12	always supported the appropriate use of substance
13	abuse treatment in drug cases. DTAP in the City of
14	New York and STEPS in Upstate counties, coupled
15	with the proliferation of drug courts throughout
16	the state have increased both the availability of
17	treatment and the expertise of the judiciary,
18	prosecution and defense in understanding the
19	appropriate use of treatment.
20	Now, when I talk about treatment,
21	I'm dividing our discussion between true dealers
22	and and true addicts or those addicted to the
23	controlled substances.
24	First, with regard to the

Page 27

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	dealers, district attorneys are constantly urged by
3	communities to eradicate the plague of criminal
4	violence. Drug dealing always brings guns and
5	other violence, and provides a fertile breeding
6	ground for violent gangs to start and grow. All
7	district attorneys know that the elimination of
8	drug dealers means less violence and fewer victims.
9	That is why we reject softening the penalty for
10	drug dealers, and will continue to seek prison
11	terms for those who bring violence to our
12	communities.
13	However, on the other hand, with
14	regard to addicts, and despite the mantra of drug
15	reform groups that inaccurately portrait
16	prosecutors as contributing to long sentences for
17	drug addicts, the reality is far different.
18	District attorneys seek treatment, jobs and a
19	successful return to the community for drug
20	addicts. We strongly support drug treatment and
21	the appropriate use of graduated sanctions for drug
22	addicts.
23	A recent survey by D.C.J.S. at
24	the thirty-six counties in New York State

Page 28

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	representing nearly eighty percent of our state's
3	population, found that over twenty-two thousand
4	defendants have participated in drug court, DTAP
5	and STEPS. And although drug reform groups imply
6	that all second felony offenders go to state
7	prison, many, if not most, of those twenty-two
8	thousand defendants were second felony offenders,
9	who were up for drug treatment and not prison
10	through the programs that I just mentioned.
11	Very simply removing the
12	"mandatory," and I say that in quotes, prison
13	provision for conviction of the class B felony or
14	conviction of the second felony offender would make
15	treatments and less successful.
16	Many Upstate D.A.s would embrace
17	the drug court programs if they had resources
18	available, but resources, personnel and funding are
19	serious impediments to well-intentioned
20	prosecutors. We have repeatedly asked for more
21	funding in our annual budget requests.
22	Some facts you should consider
23	are: Did you know that thirty-seven of sixty-two
24	counties, more than half of the counties in the

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	state, have less than ten assistant district
3	attorneys. Did you know that twenty of sixty-two,
4	nearly one-third of the counties have less than
5	five assistant district attorneys. I I think
6	these numbers are stunning, especially when we talk
7	about proscecutorial resources, and you're looking
8	at district attorneys offices to consider that more
9	than half had less than ten A.D.A.s.
10	The Franklin County D.A. wanted
11	to appear here today, and in speaking with him this
12	morning, he could not; he has four assistant D.A.s
13	who handle twenty-eight hundred crimes, three
14	thousand vehicle and traffic violations, twelve
15	hundred penal law violations, crimes from five
16	correctional facilities and the St. Regis
17	Reservation. He want us to expand a very limited
18	drug treatment court program, but needs resources,
19	technical support and personnel and funding. In
20	addition, the simple fact that geography is a major
21	impediment for his county in Franklin, and other
22	state rural counties, is important to remember.
23	The town of Tupper Lake for
24	example is sixty-two miles away from the county

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	seat of Malone, in Franklin County. A three-hour
3	round trip for a drug court participant once a week
4	is nearly impossible.
5	And we all know that programming
6	for drug court participants is vital, someone can't
7	be attending a drug court in Malone, but be living
8	in Tupper Lake, and be expected to engage in
9	community rehabilitation and treatment.
10	The Warren County district
11	attorney, Kate Hogan, wanted to testify this
12	morning, she is engaged in presenting an infant
13	homicide case to her grand jury this morning. She
14	had six assistant district attorneys, she has a
15	very limited drug court program as well. She has
16	the same problems that Franklin County has. Her
17	resources are limited.
18	Both of those district attorneys,
19	and many, many other of the district attorneys in
20	Upstate, would engage in full-fledged, active
21	dedicated full-time drug court prosecutors if they
22	had the resources to do it. And despite
23	well-intended district attorneys, those counties,
24	and I said, again half have less than D.A half
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
have less than ten D.A.s, they simply can't do it,
because of the resources.
Geography, small offices and
lack lack of programs for drug guys in their own
communities will continue to thwart efforts by
prosecutors to utilize alternative programs despite
their willingness and desire to do so.
Fund the programs, and they will
implemented in all of our counties. This is what
district attorneys want, we want to expand and
approve alternatives to incarceration.
My colleague Bridget Brennan, a
special narcotics prosecutor, gave an in-depth
testimony to the Commission earlier this week, and
I will rely on her remarks for more information on
that.
I want to skip ahead in my
submission to the D.N.A. collection for all
offenders. Although this matter was not raised by
the Sentencing Commission it is of critical
importance to prosecutors. The law presently
requires D.N.A. collection upon conviction of all
felonies and selected misdemeanors. Collecting
Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 32

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	samples has been extremely cumbersome in Upstate
3	counties when a definitive guilty to a misdemeanor
4	and is not under any form of supervision. Every
5	county outside the city of New York with D.C.J.S.'s
6	assistance is required to formulate a plan to
7	collect D.N.A. Despite our best efforts - and I
8	realize my time is up, but I just have one last
9	paragraph - D.N.A. is not collected from every
10	offender, particularly in rural justice courts.
11	D.C. just is continually updating
12	and distributing reports to our counties
13	identifying offenders for whom a D.N.A. sample is
14	mandated but has not been submitted. Using these
15	reports local law enforcement attempts to locate
16	and persuade an offender to give a D.N.A. sample.
17	Very simply, the existing law did not contemplate,
18	let alone address this issue.
19	And it's because of the problems
20	generated by the current law that I strongly urge
21	you to call for a legislation, mandating collection
22	from all offenders at the time of arrest like
23	fingerprints and mug shots.
24	In today's world D.N.A. is a

Page 33

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	crime solver, and it can exonerate people	
3	immediately upon the time of arrest just as	
4	importantly. And D.A.s are wanting to do that as	
5	well.	
6	So, thank you, Commissioner.	
7	Thank you to the Commission for	
8	their work and their dedication.	
9	And on behalf of all of the	
10	district attorneys in New York State, I thank you	
11	and look forward to continuing to work with you in	
12	a collaborative way.	
13	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very	
14	much D.A. Murphy. Our next speaker is Mr. Rocco	
15	Pozzi, who is the head of the Westchester County	
16	Probation Department, also was a speaker and	
17	lecturer before the Commission during our earlier	
18	deliberations, and a member of one of our	
19	subcommittees, and we thank you for all your help	
20	in in our work. Welcome.	
21	MR. POZZI: Thank you, Madam	
22	Chairwoman, it is, indeed, an honor to be here	
23	today, and I really want to thank the Committee for	
24	this opportunity, and I also appear here today on	
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing	8

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

800.523.7887

Page 34

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	behalf of the New York State Council of Probation
3	Administrators as I serve as their president for
4	the next two years, and I commend the Commission
5	for its preliminary report, and it and it is a
6	preliminary report, we understand that, and it's a
7	good starting point for us to begin this
8	discussion.
9	I have submitted written
10	testimony, I'm not going to read it into the
11	record, I just want to try to cover some of the
12	highlights, and I would like to save you ten
13	minutes just by saying I agree with everything that
14	Bob Maccarone said.
15	But I'm going to add a couple
16	more points, if if I can, because, you
17	know, our state director has done a great job in
18	his presentation, and I'm not going to give you a
19	lot of the statistics that he has given you, I have
20	in my report also, and I do want to highlight a
21	couple of other statistics that he may not have
22	covered.
23	One of the things that I I
24	would like to drive home if I can - and this is a

Page 35

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	point I have been trying to make at the national
3	level, too - is that we all operate under the
4	under the contention that probation is an
5	alternative to incarceration, and it really is not.
6	Incarceration is an alternative to probation.
7	Not only in this state, but also
8	in this country, it is it is the sentence of
9	choice in America, and yet not only in New York
10	State, but throughout the United States, we find
11	probation underfunded and undermanned.
12	And I just want to read one
13	excerpt, if I can, from my testimony, which kind of
14	highlights all this. And my friend Warren Green
15	who was a director from Fulton County, always says
16	that he he feels like we're the redheaded
17	stepchild of the criminal justice system. And
18	indeed, over the past fifteen years the probation
19	system in New York has seen its mandates increase,
20	through a disconnected series of expanded duties
21	and boutique sentences, while at the same time the
22	state has virtually abdicated its statutory
23	commitment to fund fifty percent of probation
24	services.

Page 36

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	As a result, probation is at
3	something of a crossroads. It finds itself
4	underfunded, undermanned, hovering in an
5	administrative nether world somewhere between the
6	judiciary and the executive, a function of the
7	local government, subject to state mandates, and
8	funded partially by the state and greatly by the
9	county. Now, you know why my analyst says I'm
10	schizophrenic.
11	But it's you know, what I want
12	to what I want to cover today with you is, I
13	think we all know that the mandates that have been
14	placed on probation have increased tremendously
15	over the last fifteen years and the probation
16	community wants to say that we understand that they
17	are good mandates. They are things that we should
18	be doing. The shortfall has been as those mandates
19	have been handed down to us, the resources that
20	need to go along with us in order for us to really
21	implement those mandates has really not been there.
22	When we talk about the new D.W.I.
23	legislation, interim supervision, where we actually
24	have been able to increase the period of

		Page 37
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	supervision for people; sex offenders, we all talk	
3	about sex offenders, our role in getting people	
4	registered, collecting D.N.A. We also talk about	
5	reentry and reintegration, the role that probation	
6	place in that. All these are great things that we	
7	need to do. And as this Commission talks about	
8	increasing the availability of alternative	
9	sentencing, you know, for our judges, we at the	
10	same time have got to make sure that probation is	
11	in a position where we can follow through on those	
12	mandates.	
13	You know, I I really I I	
14	can't leave this table without talking a little bit	
15	about the funding history and what has happened to	
16	probation. I almost feel like I was I've been	
17	in in Westchester now for eighteen years, and I	
18	think ever since my arrival over the eighteen years	
19	I have seen the state aid you know, it's	
20	increased tremendously during that time period, and	
21	it's going from a high of around fifty percent, or	
22	forty-six point five I think might have been the	
23	highest it it was when I got here eighteen years	
24	ago, and it is now down to seventeen percent. And	
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing	800 523 7887

		Page 38
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	when you look at average caseload sizes of a	
3	hundred and twenty. That's the average. And I'm	
4	talking about, you know, for sex offenders, and for	
5	serious D.W.I., and for domestic violence cases,	
6	you can't ask the probation officer to provide	
7	meaningful services with caseloads of that size.	
8	And when you look at I mean,	
9	these are some numbers that I would like to give	
10	you. The number of adult offenders on probation	
11	exceeds the combined total of those incarcerated	
12	and on parole. We have a hundred and twenty-four	
13	thousand people that are under Probation	
14	supervision in the state. There are approximately	
15	sixty thousand felons that are under Probation	
16	supervision.	
17	In 2005 and 2006 state funding	
18	for Probation services comprised three percent of	
19	the total funding for DOCS, Parole and Probation	
20	services. In 2005 the State spend an annual	
21	average of five hundred and fifty-four dollars per	
22	probationer, while spending four thousand one	
23	hundred and seventy dollars per parolee, and	
24	thirty-four thousand dollars per inmate.	

Page 39

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	The proportion of state aid	
3	reimbursement for Probation services has been	
4	reduced, as I said, from forty-five percent in 1990	
5	to approximately seventeen percent in 2006. And	
6	new state mandates over the past fifteen years now	
7	consumed twenty-five percent of the duties of a	
8	probation officer.	
9	So, my plea here today is that we	
10	support this Commission, and we want to work very	
11	closely with this Commission, and Probation wants	
12	to play a vital role. I think we have seen an	
13	increase in Probation's role through Project	
14	Impact. I think our police community have is	
15	finding probation to be invaluable resource of	
16	information that we have available in our in our	
17	records, and some of the things that we have been	
18	able to do to assist our communities to make them	
19	safer, you know, has really become apparent through	
20	Project Impact, and we applaud that that	
21	program, and we hope that that will continue,	
22	because it is making our communities safer.	
23	But the one thing that we do	
24	need, as you heard the district attorneys, and you	
	Associated Departure Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Alberry NV Dublic Hearing	00

Page 40

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	hear the police we will hear from police
3	community, we in Probation also need to have
4	additional resources through that project, so we
5	continue to do the great things that we have
6	started to do.
7	So, my plea here today to the
8	Commission is that we are going to work with you,
9	we're going to continue to work with you, we just
10	hope that you will, in your final report, really
11	acknowledge the role of Probation, and you know,
12	have the resources that will be there to allow to
13	do the things that this Commission would want us to
14	do.
15	So, I want to thank you. My
16	testimony is in writing. I have a lot more
17	information in there that I'm not going to not
18	going to read to you. And I thank you for this
19	opportunity.
20	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.
21	MR. VANCE: I have a question,
22	really it's both for you and Mr. Maccarone, and do
23	you believe that the risk and needs assessment
24	tools that's we seem to talk about mostly in
	Associated Departure Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Alberry NV Dublic Hearing

		Page 41
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	application for those who have been convicted, are	
3	appropriately used by the judge preconviction in	
4	the presentence evaluation? And if they are is	
5	that something that Probation can actually -	
6	obviously it's a funding and resource issue - but	
7	can you can a can you do that kind of	
8	assessment realistically preplea, or as part of the	
9	presentence report?	
10	MR. POZZI: Yeah, Bob, you can	
11	answer.	
12	MR. MACCARONE: Excuse me,	
13	Probation easily and this we're very much at	
14	the onset of risk and needs, the the whole issue	
15	of the development of risk and needs is is a	
16	fairly new science. I think we're going to train	
17	our probation officers and in fact, we've got	
18	round two training coming up during December and	
19	January in case planning and reclassification and	
20	case assessment. We need to also train the	
21	judiciary. We'll be working closely with the chief	
22	administrative judge to advise local court and	
23	supreme supreme court judges of the use of the	
24	risk and need instrument.	

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	But certainly, yes, I think it is
3	doable, and the reason that it's doable is because
4	by completing, making that 30-minute investment in
5	completing the risk and need assessment it will
6	actually drive the development of the presentence
7	investigation and report. So, the the officer
8	is going to get a product out of that. It's going
9	to help them. It's going to essentially do what
10	was called commonly the presentence investigation
11	worksheet. So, there's a product there. Yes, I
12	think it's doable, and I think it will drive good
13	practice.
14	MR. POZZI: And I agree. I mean
15	it could be used in the as part of the
16	presentence investigation, it is an invaluable tool
17	for supervision.
18	Obviously part of it you know,
19	not only the risk assessment, but the needs
20	assessment, is extremely important, and then, you
21	know, doing the the case plan that the probation
22	officer needs to follow through on, is extremely
23	important, and that document, that risk/need
24	document helps provide that. And it provides some
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 43

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	consistency, so that we have, you know, probation
3	officers not only in Westchester, but probation
4	officers throughout the state, you know, working
5	the same way.
6	Thank you.
7	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you for
8	your remarks.
9	You've made your point many times
10	to us. We understand both the valuable
11	invaluable role of probation, and we understand the
12	need for funding as well.
13	MR. POZZI: Thank you.
14	MS. O'DONNELL: And I think
15	Commissioner Alexander
16	MR. ALEXANDER: Just a quick
17	comment
18	MS. O'DONNELL: made
19	MR. ALEXANDER: I just wanted
20	to acknowledge the fact that Rocco Pozzi is not
21	only a leader in Westchester County, but is the
22	leader nationwide in the issue of in the areas
23	of community supervision and particularly
24	probation.

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	So, Rocco, I want to thank you
3	very much for your leadership in probation and
4	across the country. I understand and appreciate
5	the complexities of probation supervision,
6	particularly in the face of limited resources
7	that's coming from probation, coming from Erie
8	County, certainly those resources are and those
9	issues are something that we speak of very much in
10	the Sentencing Reform Commission. So, thank you
11	very much for your leadership.
12	MR. POZZI: Thank you, Mr.
13	Chairman.
14	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.
15	Our next speaker is Chief James
16	Tuffey, chief of the Albany Police Department.
17	Chief Tuffey is one of the leaders, not only in New
18	York but throughout the country in
19	intelligence-driven policing. I, last night, was
20	looking through our monthly and statistical reports
21	for Operation Impact, and this year, despite a
22	constant battle with violent crime, we see marked
23	reductions in violent crime and part one crime here
24	in Albany as a result of the work that Chief Tuffey
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		Page 45
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	and his troops are engaged in on an ongoing basis.	
3	So, welcome.	
4	MR. TUFFEY: Thank you very much,	
5	Commissioner.	
6	Let me roll this back to the	
7	street, it's the police officers on the street who	
8	do the job every day. And that's really where I'm	
9	going to focus my testimony today.	
10	First of all, let me thank the	
11	Commission members, and I applaud Governor or	
12	Governor Spitzer for the executive order in doing	
13	this Commission.	
14	As a member of the law	
15	enforcement community we understand the	
16	complexities associated with the governor's	
17	executive order on sentence reform. However, I	
18	would ask the Commission to give full consideration	
19	to the input law enforcement official, throughout	
20	the state, would give this Commission. The number	
21	one goal of this Commission must be the safety of	
22	all New Yorkers. To do anything else would be a	
23	greater justice. We cannot undo the good work of	
24	law enforcement in reducing crime in the state of	
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	New York, which has resulted in fewer crime
3	victims.
4	I am very concerned with the
5	possibility of the Sentencing Commission discussing
6	further penalty reduction in felony drug cases.
7	Far too often the law enforcement community sees
8	the real devastation of the drug dealer's work.
9	Yes, we all see the violence, but the real silent
10	killer is the addiction fueled by these dealers
11	whose sole motivation is financial. They have
12	actually no concern for the community or families
13	they destroy.
14	Walk in our shoes, and you will
15	see the underbelly of this devastation. Far too
16	often we forget about those innocent victims. I
17	believe that members of the law enforcement
18	community, including myself personally, support
19	treatment to prevent further deterioration to our
20	communities, but this treatment needs to be started
21	earlier. I firmly believe that any further penalty
22	
	reduction in felony drug cases will have an impact
23	reduction in felony drug cases will have an impact on the safety of our communities of this great

		Page 47
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	Another area of great concern is	
3	the parole rule violator. They must be held to the	
4	parole conditions when they commit a violation of	
5	the law. They have been convicted or plead guilty	
6	and have been given a second chance by being	
7	released on parole. They have not paid their full	
8	debt to the society and they should return to	
9	finish out their sentence for any violation of the	
10	conditions of their parole. If they believe they	
11	are not going to be violated, they will continue to	
12	wreak havoc on the community.	
13	In the City of Albany since	
14	January 1st of 2006, there have been over five	
15	hundred charges, two hundred and twenty-eight	
16	felonies and two hundred and seventy-five	
17	misdemeanors, against parolees who continue, once	
18	released, to violate the innocent citizens of our	
19	city. This has to stop. The safety of the	
20	law-abiding citizen has to be our number one	
21	concern.	
22	In closing, let me again thank	
23	you for the opportunity to present this testimony.	
24	Let us continue to work together to come up with	

Page 48

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	the best possible solutions to these complex issues
3	for the public safety of the citizens of this great
4	state.
5	Thank you very much for the
6	opportunity.
7	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you, Chief.
8	Any questions?
9	Thank you. And I believe I
10	skipped over Mark Furnish, who is going to be
11	testifying in place of someone else who couldn't
12	attend today, is Mark here? We will come back to
13	Mark.
14	Alice Green from the Center for
15	Law and Justice.
16	And if Heather Haskins is here
17	and could come down also with our next speaker.
18	Thank you, and welcome, Ms.
19	Green.
20	MS. GREEN: Thank you. Good
21	morning, Commissioner O'Donnell, and members of the
22	Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to
23	speak to you.
24	My name is Alice Green, and I am

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	executive director of the Center for Law and
3	Justice, a twenty-two-year-old non-profit civil
4	rights and criminal justice organization that is
5	community-based in the City of Albany. It is our
6	mission to promote the fair and just treatment of
7	all people throughout our civil and criminal
8	justice system, and to advance public safety by
9	working directly with community people.
10	For nearly thirty years I have
11	worked with communities to raise the consciousness
12	of lawmakers, government officials and the general
13	public about the debilitating impact the criminal
14	justice system has on poor people and people of
15	color, their families and their communities. The
16	damage done to African-Americans is so extensive,
17	hurtful and destructive that it is reminiscent of
18	the harmful process that was put into play nearly
19	four hundred years ago.
20	Now, almost a hundred a fifty
21	years following the end of chattel slavery in
22	America, large numbers of our young black males,
23	and increasingly black females, are
24	disproportionally confined and still enslaved in
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	many respect. They are unable to vote, suffer high
3	unemployment and underemployment, live in
4	substandard housing, attend poorly funded and
5	performing schools, and receive the poorest medical
6	attention and care, and suffer from a litany of
7	other poor conditions.
8	Reports abound of how they are
9	perceived, approached and treated according to
10	stereotypes that mark them as inferior and less
11	than human by many of our basic institutions. Law
12	enforcement is no exception. It often exacerbates
13	these human conditions by relying, much too
14	heavily, upon their arrest and incarceration.
15	Also, for nearly thirty years, we
16	have come to this particular place here and
17	testified about these conditions and the failure of
18	our prison system and begged for understanding,
19	acknowledgment and determined actions to alleviate
20	the human destruction emanating from our criminal
21	punishment system. Many other research and and
22	civil rights and civil liberties organizations have
23	very clearly documented the seriousness of the
24	problem and the urgent need for effective change.
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 51

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	The sentencing project, the
3	Correctional Association of New York, the NAACP
4	legal defense fund, and many others had made
5	significant contributions to our understanding of
6	those most directly affected by our criminal
7	punishment system, and what we must do about it.
8	Regrettably, most of our
9	recommendations and pleas were discarded. Over all
10	these years we have failed to move those with the
11	power and the authority to significantly change the
12	horrible conditions that I mentioned earlier.
13	While the Center for Law and
14	Justice believes that structural and sentencing
15	reforms are needed in New York State, the
16	government's charge to this Commission may not
17	result in the kind of drastic changes necessary to
18	liberate African-Americans, promote true criminal
19	and social justice and further public safety.
20	To begin that process we believe
21	that this Commission on Sentencing Reform must
22	seriously entertain and consider the two following
23	recommendations that we hope will be included in
24	the final report to Governor Spitzer.

Page 52

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	The first, the abolition of
3	prisons as the major institution of punishment,
4	prison sentencing appears to have only a very
5	limited relationship to crime or criminal and
6	social justice. We see prison sentences primarily
7	as political, economic and racist tools that are
8	too often used to create and maintain a past system
9	of poor African-Americans and Latinos. In
10	addition, they are used to promote a flourishing
11	punishment industry that benefits almost everyone
12	but those incarcerated and their families. This
13	state of affairs must be acknowledged by this
14	Commission, and the commitment to abolish prisons
15	as the major institution of punishment must be
16	made.
17	One of the major leaders in a
18	movement to abolish prisons, Angela Davis asserts
19	that "abolitionism should not now be considered an
20	unrealizable utopian dream, but rather the only
21	possible way to halt the further transnational
22	development of prison industries."
23	A strong system of graduated
24	sanctions could be developed and adopted based on

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	the experience and knowledge we now have. It could
3	be substituted and used to rehabilitate and/or
4	empower each individual to become a constructive
5	and contributing member of his or her family and
6	community.
7	New York State has a glorious
8	history of leadership in proposing and instituting
9	meaningful social change. As early as 1827 it
10	abolished slavery in the state at a time when few
11	believed that the abolition of that deeply embedded
12	economic, political and social system was possible.
13	Like slavery, prisons are not
14	sacred or natural wonders that must be thought of
15	as permanent fixtures in our society. And also
16	like slavery, prison abolition is a long range goal
17	that must begin now if you have to prevent the
18	destruction of another generation of people of
19	color, and further shape social relations in our
20	society.
21	Prisons also need to be abolished
22	because they function as a dominant mode of
23	addressing social problems that are better solved
24	by other institutions and other means. The call
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 54

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	for prison abolition urges us to imagine and strive
3	for very different social landscape.
4	The second recommendation deals
5	with the development of community justice systems.
6	In a number of cities across the country, including
7	Albany, law enforcement officials and community
8	members are starting to work together as a way to
9	stop crime and increase the role of communities in
10	addressing public safety. Their primary goal is to
11	find ways to accomplish their public safety goals
12	without putting more people in prison.
13	Efforts are under way in cities
14	such as Chicago, Hartford, Houston and here in
15	Albany to change and increase the role of community
16	people in addressing public safety. In Albany a
17	community accountability board, an alternative
18	citizen-based criminal justice body, was developed
19	through the Albany County District Attorney's
20	Office. It allow citizens to become involved in
21	determining and monitoring sanctions for those who
22	have committed nonviolent criminal violations.
23	According to public safety
24	community organizers Lorenzo Jones and Robert

Page 55

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Rooks, community people must have more say as to
3	what happens to people once they are arrested.
4	They contend that what's good about placing the
5	community at the center of what happens to people
6	that get into trouble, is that the community often
7	has a better idea of what people need than police.
8	It shifts the police incentives
9	from making arrest to community satisfaction and
10	involvement. It situates the community in the
11	center of public policy debates for increased
12	treatment, alternatives to incarceration programs
13	and better sentencing practices. As a result
14	communities gain a better understanding of the root
15	causes of crime.
16	My center supports the notion
17	that we must shift the goal of public safety and
18	responsibilities to communities. In order to do
19	this, there are four things that must happen:
20	One, communities must use sound
21	research and advocacy to move away from
22	incarceration-focused strategies and work to bridge
23	the goals of criminal justice and public safety.
24	Second, communities must

Page 56

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	effectively organize to force legislators and law
3	enforcement to make a shift in their responses to
4	crime.
5	Third, communities must advocate
6	at all levels of government for alternative
7	programming.
8	And fourth, communities must
9	create volunteer alternatives, so that the
10	immediate diversion of people can happen, and won't
11	be held up by the slow legislative process.
12	Our state government must
13	encourage and support the work of local communities
14	to develop community justice systems in partnership
15	with law enforcement. The Center for Law and
16	Justice is currently working to develop a community
17	justice center model that would place community
18	residents at the very core of efforts to bring
19	together public and private groups, organizations
20	and resources to work collaboratively on social
21	justice and public safety issues and focus their
22	energies and resource on crime prevention,
23	treatment, reentry and empowerment activity.
24	While this Commission's charge is

Page 57

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	primarily sentencing reform, and my agency's is
3	prison abolition, a balance can and must be struck
4	between the two. As you review New York's existing
5	sentencing structure and entertain needed reform in
6	the State Drug Laws, mandatory sentencing, parole,
7	sentencing alternatives and other crucial issues,
8	please consider how such changes could be
9	integrated into an abolitionist context and
10	decarceration strategies.
11	Current public discourse on the
12	two goals have already generated calls for justice
13	reinvestment. That is the planned shifting of
14	resources from prison and punishment to community
15	program such as education, healthcare, housing,
16	treatment, alternatives to incarceration for drug
17	and other offenses, and other public services.
18	What we believe is most important
19	to acknowledge here today is that our dependency
20	upon punishment, mass incarcerations and the
21	disproportionate incarceration of black people and
22	Latinos, has become so fixed in our societal psyche
23	that we are unable to consider or imagine other
24	more humane and effective ways of solving the

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		Page 58
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	1 450 50
2	problem of crime.	
3	Today, we challenge the	
4	Commission to break the chains that enslave us all,	
5	and recommend a more progressive vision of justice	
6	that can truly promote healing, justice and public	
7	safety.	
8	Again, I thank you for this	
9	opportunity to appear before you.	
10	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very	
11	much, Ms. Green. And thank you for your many years	
12	of dedicated service for the Center for Law and	
13	Justice.	
14	Mark Furnish?	
15	Mark, I understand is with	
16	Senator Duane's staff and	
17	MR. FURNISH: Yes, I'm the	
18	counsel for Senator Duane.	
19	MS. O'DONNELL: Counsel for	
20	Senator Duane, and welcome.	
21	MR. FURNISH: Thank you.	
22	Senator Duane represents the	
23	Twenty-ninth Senate District, and from 2002 to 2006	
24	he was the ranking minority member on the Senate's	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

Page 59

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Code Committee, which was the Committee directly
3	involved with the issue of criminal sentencing
4	reform in the New York State Senate.
5	I would like to thank the
6	Commission on State Sentencing Reform for allowing
7	me to present testimony today on the urgent need
8	for sentencing reform, especially on the issue of
9	repealing the Rockefeller Drug Laws. Senator Duane
10	believes that very little has been done in New York
11	to reform these harsh and unnecessary drug laws.
12	In 2004, the New York State
13	legislature was facing incredible pressure by the
14	public to eliminate these laws, and it gave the
15	state and our legislature a real opportunity to
16	completely restructure the drug laws.
17	Regrettably the legislature
18	reached a poor compromise, and passed laws in
19	December of 2004 and August of 2005 that did very
20	little in the way of Rockefeller Drug Law reform.
21	But it did have a tragic consequence of stopping
22	the momentum for reform, and removing legislature's
23	incentive to enact an actual and meaningful repeal
24	of the laws.

Page 60

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	The 2004 and 2005 legislation did
3	nothing to eliminate the harsh penalties for
4	low-level first-time nonviolent B offenses. In
5	2004, senate minority leader David Paterson and
6	Senator Duane issued a report showing that New York
7	State has the harshest laws in the country for
8	low-level B offenses.
9	Senator Duane has been vocal in
10	arguing that until we enact legislation that
11	provides meaningful reform for Class B drug
12	offenses, legislature and the state has not done
13	their jobs in the area of sentencing reform.
14	In addition, under the recently
15	enacted laws, very few district attorneys are in
16	the process of resentencing those inmates convicted
17	of Class A drug felonies. Yet even if the
18	resentencing process was in full force, there is no
19	infrastructure to provide inmates with legal
20	assistance needed in the resentencing process.
21	Funding is important in anything that we do, it has
22	to have a funding attachment. And much work needs
23	to be done to improve the current system.
24	Now, I am going to bore you with

Page 61

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	statistics, but they're staggering, that prove that
3	the legislation enacted in 2004 and 2005 provides
4	little relief to the staggering numbers of people
5	convicted under the Rockefeller Drug Laws.
6	Notwithstanding the recent Drug
7	Law modifications, more people were sent to state
8	prison for nonviolent drug offenses in 2006 than in
9	2005. 2006, it was six thousand thirty-nine, in
10	2005, it was five hundred five thousand eight
11	hundred and thirty-five and in 2004, it was five
12	thousand six hundred and fifty-seven, the number
13	has increased. There are over thirteen thousand
14	nine hundred drug offenders locked up in New York
15	State prisons, and it costs the State of New York
16	one point five billion to construct prisons to
17	house drug offenders, and operating expenses for
18	confining them is over five hundred and ten million
19	a year.
20	In 2006, thirty-six percent of
21	people sent to prison were drug offenders. In
22	1980, that figure was eleven percent. About
23	thirty-nine percent of drug offenders in New York
24	State prisons, more than five thousand four hundred
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	people, were locked up for drug possessions as
3	opposed to drug selling. It costs over a hundred
4	and ninety million to keep them in prison.
5	Of all the drug offenders in New
6	York State prisons in 1999, eighty percent were
7	never convicted of felony before and nearly
8	fifty-four percent of drug offenders in New York
9	State prisons were convicted of the lowest level of
10	drug felony.
11	Further, there is no question
12	that these laws are racially biased. Studies show
13	that the majority of persons who use and sell drugs
14	in New York State and across the country are
15	whites, yet African-Americans and Latinos comprise
16	the ninety-one percent of drug offenders in New
17	York State's prisons, whites make up only eight
18	percent.
19	The most effective tool to fight
20	drug abuse is treatment, yet New York insists on
21	locking up drug abusers. This is a detriment not
22	only to the offender, but also costs the state
23	coffers. It cost thirty-six thousand eight hundred
24	and thirty-five dollars a year to keep a low-level
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

		Page 63
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	drug offender in prison, while it costs about two	
3	thousand seven hundred to forty-five hundred	
4	dollars a year to provide treatment. Yet we insist	
5	on continuing to incarcerate instead of treatment	
6	and provide educational opportunities. This makes	
7	no sense.	
8	One of the biggest tragedies of	
9	the Rockefeller Drug Laws is the plight of women	
10	who get caught up in that. And in 2005, Senator	
11	Duane held a hearing, where he looked at the plight	
12	of woman and Rockefeller Drug Laws, and the	
13	testimony was shocking.	
14	As of January 2007, two hundred	
15	and eighty-five (sic) women were incarcerated in	
16	New York State prisons. That's four point five	
17	percent of the state's population inmate	
18	population. From 1973 to 2007, the number of women	
19	in New York State's prisons increased six hundred	
20	and forty-five percent. Eighty-four percent of	
21	women sent to New York State prisons in 2006 were	
22	nonviolent offenses. As of January 2007,	
23	thirty-three percent were sent to prison for	
24	nonviolent drug offenses. Eighty-two percent of	
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing	800 523 7887

Page 64

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	women incarcerated in New York State prisons report
3	having alcohol and drug abuse problem prior to
4	arrests. Thirty-two percent of women have no
5	criminal record. And sixty percent lack a high
6	school diploma. Seventy-four percent of women
7	report being mothers, at least fifty-six hundred
8	children had mothers incarcerated in New York State
9	prison system. Fourteen percent of women report
10	being HIV positive, which is almost (sic) double
11	the rate reported by male inmates at six point
12	seven percent.
13	Senator Duane also wishes to
14	address one of his biggest concerns and one that
15	goes unmentioned most of the time. The need for
16	solid offender reentry programs. Many inmates who
17	are sent to prison on low-level drug offenses have
18	substance abuse problems, yet there's no integrated
19	reentry program for them. Upon their release from
20	prison, this leads to natural consequences of
21	recidivism. This is yet another sign that the Drug
22	Laws in New York State are nonsensical.
23	In Senator Duane's proposed
24	legislation would result in a successful reentry

Page 65

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	programs. A successful reentry program must
3	include: An issue of judicial identification of
4	the problem and a detailed assessment of the
5	offender's needs; a report must be made and issued
6	to the Department of Correctional Services
7	addressing offender needs; DOCS must be funded to
8	provide educational, skill and treatment programs
9	while the offender is incarcerated;
10	neighborhood-level supervision, that means parole
11	officers located in the community working hand in
12	hand with respective neighborhoods to help released
13	offenders access services; and the utilization of a
14	full-service delivery model, which will include the
15	following services: Employment/vocational
16	training, housing, treatment of substance abuse,
17	mental health counseling and counseling for
18	families and partners; and finally program
19	oversight and revocation authority exercised by
20	reentry judges, whose job it is to maintain
21	offender rehabilitation efforts.
22	Another serious problem across
23	New York State related to the Rockefeller Drug Laws
24	is the lack of uniformity of enforcement. How much

Page 66

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	time you spend in prison on a low-level drug
3	offense and the treatment you receive varies widely
4	across the state. In addition to the incredible
5	racial disparity, which I outlined earlier, a
6	low-level drug offender's sentence depends a great
7	deal on which which county they are sentenced
8	in. This needs to be changed. Geography should
9	not play a role in sentencing.
10	I, again, want to thank the
11	Commission for holding these hearings across the
12	state.
13	Senator believe Senator Duane
14	believes that the testimony makes clear the urgent
15	need to reform the Rockefeller Drug Laws.
16	As the legislature wastes time
17	refusing to repeal these laws, more and more
18	low-level offenders are getting imprisoned,
19	families are ruined. This is wrong. Senator Duane
20	urges the Commission to make clear in its
21	recommendations that legislation must be enacted
22	quickly to address these problems.
23	Finally, I want to stress that as
24	we continue the process of enacting meaningful

Page 67

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	sentencing reform, we must always keep in mind that
3	drug addiction should always be treated as a health
4	issue. Treating drug addicts as criminal has been
5	a dismal failure.
6	Thank you.
7	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very
8	much, Mr. Furnish.
9	Father Young is here to join us.
10	Father Peter Young who has been a leader here in
11	the Albany community in providing housing for
12	formerly incarcerated individuals, and for his
13	advocating for reentry efforts.
14	FR. YOUNG: We thank you very
15	much. I'm speaking only on two issues. There were
16	those on the Committee that have been mentioned and
17	the ones that I would like, if I could, to address
18	today are the issues of housing and jobs. And for
19	forty-eight years I have been attempting to provide
20	safe housing for those who are homeless because of
21	their special need for supervision, probation and
22	parole.
23	I was assigned as pastor of a
24	large Green Street parish with many available
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Page 68

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	buildings, gym, clothing centers, furniture
3	donation centers, recreation, and this is a
4	convent/rectory, and I lived there with a staff of
5	fifty-three people at that time, in the late in
6	the 1950s.
7	In the rectory at that time I
8	lived with twenty-four men in the same rectory. It
9	was a wonderful experience with amazing success.
10	The understanding of the parishioners and the
11	community, immediately would expand by using these
12	men and women to take over abandoned properties,
13	and within one year we had over one ten
14	aftercare houses by our own creativity.
15	That was in the 1950s. Then the
16	zoning plan committees put a stop to the
17	development of our efforts. In the rectory now,
18	I'm allowed only to house six people, from
19	twenty-four to six.
20	It's not that the the
21	twenty-four I had housed had ever been in trouble,
22	I never had an incident, it was limited according
23	to the current code restrictions, now I have to
24	renovate to meet the requirement that has cost
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	another two hundred thousand of the historic
3	preservation committee and other restrictions.
4	The result is we have defeated
5	the basic economic rule of supply and demand. The
6	battle for the pretty and they are not practical.
7	The housing need for the homeless, the current
8	barriers have created the problem for those that
9	are attempting to put their lives together.
10	Housing and employment legal
11	changes, have prevented their successful return to
12	the society. Just this week, I was in Buffalo,
13	all all this week in Rochester and Syracuse and
14	Utica visiting our programs in developing three new
15	sites. And and it's an easier thing there than
16	in New York City.
17	It's amazing how, when we look at
18	the changes that are resulted from the
19	deinstitutionalization, I was cochair of that
20	committee in '76, by the time as senate chaplain
21	for forty-nine years I watched that all happen.
22	And many of those clients are now churning on the
23	streets with inadequate quality of life, most of
24	them are returning to prison, the cooccurring
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Page 70

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	clients are still living on the streets in
3	unbelievably harsh conditions.
4	On November in 2007, I saw the
5	median at over twenty-five are homeless veterans.
6	We are housing these veterans in many of our
7	statewide locations here in New York, with our
8	we now have ninety-seven locations, I have to
9	improve the the statistic here. These are
10	different sites, they're different places where we
11	can get them to work, and be again a contributing
12	member of a society with a job.
13	With the advantage of clean and
14	sober housing, with recreation and good employment
15	opportunities, all these sites must have bus lines,
16	health-related facilities and hospitals veterans
17	hospitals and other things to best then coordinate
18	their success.
19	Many have needs, special needs
20	for transportation for medical appointments the
21	majority of released individuals are unable to
22	access affordable housing and many become homeless.
23	Inadequate housing tickle
24	trickles down to impact the ex-offenders' other

Page 71

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	needs, such as treatment and employment. Homeless,
3	the ex-offenders are at great risk of reoffending.
4	The role of treatment and housing is critical to
5	provide a starting point for the reentry of the
6	foundation or engaging into other support services.
7	Housing is simply not a place to live, but a most
8	important step of the reentry process.
9	We believe it is important to
10	concentrate services in communities where
11	ex-offenders live. Serving people in their
12	neighborhoods increases accessibility of services
13	and enables providers to develop relationships with
14	families and neighbors, which allow them to tap
15	into the strength of that community.
16	Our programs had developed a
17	neighborhood constituency, and the advantages are
18	in engaging the residents who are not well-served
19	by the mainstream systems. We believe that
20	neighborhood community and faith-based
21	organizations are more likely to successfully
22	recruit and engage the local residents.
23	All the clients that have hope of
24	soon assume being able to get their own apartment

Page 72

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	and we attempt to house as many as we can within
3	our network of aftercare housing. We ask them to
4	participate in our recovery tenants association,
5	meetings and social events, and believe in the
6	process of where to go and the continued network,
7	services, building the community services serves as
8	a foundation for the medical, social and fosters
9	fellowship, rather than a feeling of being alone
10	without counseling and advisors.
11	Encouraging them to stay
12	connected is one of the most rewarding experiences
13	that I appreciate, and when they have a chance to
14	help other new residents to meet and feel relaxed
15	in the positive environment about what they call,
16	and what we call, our wounded healers, those who
17	have been down and out and in the system of DOCS,
18	or in the county, and then they come out and they
19	begin to become contributors to where they need to
20	be, to pull it together for others, so they're
21	great examples. It's a wounded healer as we regard
22	them.
23	These wounded healers share with
24	other experiences with their the experiences
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	without supported one time, and now they have the
3	hope to pull things together so that they can enjoy
4	the dignity of a paycheck.
5	Our housing rates are at best
6	one-third of a paycheck, and when they are employed
7	we assist them with their budget problems and coach
8	them, job coaching, and whenever they're needed for
9	advice we try to be there.
10	They are asked to become part of
11	the tenants' social activities and with some
12	commitment of time to other community activities
13	especially with the youth and seniors that are
14	living with us.
15	"My my dad was in prison, my
16	mom was in busy with my siblings and her job, my
17	thoughts to go to the gangs for the guidance that I
18	didn't get at home. Mom was too busy paying the
19	bills." That was a quote from this week's To You,
20	on local gangs.
21	Our agency houses thousands of
22	people every night, and in these locations we have
23	become caught in the inability of getting therefore
24	enough homes for their own kind of need. Many wait
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 74

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	for the hope that they will get into subsidized
3	housing HUD programs, or Section 8, or some other
4	funding source to help them, and therefore they're
5	not able to get that, the cutbacks have prevented
6	that from happening.
7	We're stacked those in
8	shelters, in many shelters that we're operating we
9	see that happen, they just get caught there and
10	they can't get out, at an amazing cost without
11	planning further transition to the opportunity for
12	job and independent hope and life.
13	As a South End pastor in a prime
14	poverty area for over twenty years, and then
15	working in the state prison system as the founder
16	of the ASAT program, we are aware and working there
17	for the prison system for thirty years, I have
18	met folk from every conceivable background who beg
19	for opportunities rather than barriers in life. I
20	see the similarity in marching with the marchers
21	with Martin Luther King, they were attributing the
22	failure of the black community with not having any
23	achieving feeling, and it was the blocks and the
24	barriers that prevented the black community from
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearin

Page 75

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	making an asset and we have to remove those
3	barriers, and take away the kind of an obstacle,
4	that impairment, that kind of difficulty that we
5	put in their way.
6	There is a reward for putting
7	they're extended efforts into housing. It would be
8	great to have Habitat housing for all of the needy,
9	but we're living in the real world, and many won't
10	to be able to maintain that commitment to work hard
11	for the and the rental payment. What we have
12	attempted to do is to try to offer that
13	transitional time, a year, a year and a half,
14	whatever they might need, so that they can get a
15	job. We guarantee a job, we absolutely guarantee a
16	job for everyone that we have, we try to limit our
17	ability to serve within that kind of targeted
18	numbers, and there will be a time line for the
19	candidate for housing to prove themselves in this
20	period for their own place.
21	The one example here in Albany is
22	an idea that started, and is now being advertised
23	as the HUD number one priority, and in all of the
24	speeches by HUD about housing, this is the housing
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	unit that they're talking about. They're talking
3	about high when the mayor called me, he said "we
4	have we have thirty percent occupation in a
5	housing unit, we have seventy percent vacancy if
6	you want to move your guys in."
7	I said great, "give me sixty
8	apartments." And in taking over the sixty
9	apartments, we modified their behavior; the gangs,
10	the drugs world, and all the kids that were then
11	taking away and beating up the seniors, as they
12	would go in, they would lock the elevator and jam
13	the elevator, and then rip them off on the 1st and
14	the 3rd of the month, especially; these men from
15	prison went in and contained the crime, and gave
16	again, to the community back that kind of
17	opportunity of safe and clean and sober housing.
18	When we go our recovery
19	tenants association assists the seniors with all of
20	their needs for transportation and safety. We
21	enjoy picnics, and all of the other social events
22	that go with it. The majority of our state inmates
23	return return into concentrated disadvantages,
24	these communities, especially in Albany, Syracuse
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 77

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	and Buffalo, have a large number of un- and
3	low-skilled people.
4	I know he's waiving the time line
5	at me, but in fifty years of doing the same thing,
6	I feel frustrated being trying to attend and
7	capitalize what fifty years of ministry has done.
8	After our aftercare network,
9	of life after recovery, that I've given you a copy
10	of I would like, if I could, summarize because as I
11	see the flipping of the sign here, thank you.
12	MS. O'DONNELL: You still have
13	time.
14	FR. YOUNG: Thank you.
15	I I know that we recruit
16	members from the criminal justice system that might
17	otherwise fall through the cracks, of the one-stop
18	assistant that we now have, I feel that we need to
19	again successfully retain jobs through case
20	management - and thank God for the good work of the
21	parole officers and the probation officers and
22	those that are guiding our people - to help them
23	again attain their goal.
24	Case managers work with released

Page 78

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	offenders to ensure that they have the appropriate
3	form of identification needed to obtain employment,
4	which is a very vital kind of thing, we get a lot
5	of folks walking in, that don't we don't know
6	where they're from, and they just come in and say
7	hi. And they come in, and and they need a place
8	to stay.
9	For those that we're talking
10	about in and especially the court system, we
11	get, every day, the court saying, "I want him in a
12	bed tonight," that does not mean you're going to
13	get paid, I have a three-million-dollar deficit
14	every year to take to the people that the court
15	will say, "take to these people, put them in a bed
16	tonight." The social service system, the Medicaid
17	system will then demand that money back, because
18	they say there's statute, and therefore we'll have
19	to, again, put that predator back on the street
20	without any kind of treatment or help.
21	And I'm kind of looking at what
22	we're looking into in incremental and and
23	employment goals, and recognize each and every
24	success is important to help offenders get
	Associated Demonstrate Letter 11/15/2007 Allege NIX D Literation

Page 79

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	motivated. Rather than focusing on barriers, let's
3	see if we can set up realistic employment goal, and
4	work with individuals to develop successful
5	strategies to overcome whatever barriers they may
6	face.
7	The growth process occurs not
8	only through the ability of prompt performing a job
9	but the success of assimilating and culturating
10	in those in the working experience. We are
11	looking at the short-term goals and the long-term
12	goals, and trying to be realistic in what we can
13	cause our folk to take on a career, and we try to
14	have a memo of understanding with all of the
15	restaurant associations, culinary arts and and
16	especially that kind of thing is important. We
17	have owned restaurants, hotels and many other
18	different activities between all of these buildings
19	in the walls, so we we are very familiar with
20	where and how we can try to get people employed.
21	For the State four seventy-one and the union
22	apprenticeship program. So, we try to work with
23	the unions, we got to do warehouse, we've got to do
24	a lot of these jobs things that will get people

Page 80

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	into an opportunity with our recommendation
3	automatically without any kind of hesitation
4	because we have proven our record.
5	John Brennan (phonetic spelling)
6	and his modules, reduced barriers to employment
7	including individual barriers, behaviors and
8	attitudes, as work increased, job attainment and
9	retention, competencies competencies. Prepare
10	plans for interviews, develop resumes, cover
11	letters and reference sheets, as well as impart
12	knowledge on dealing with institutional barriers to
13	employment including legal and employer
14	requirements.
15	We are a state certified, New
16	York State Department proprietary school, vested
17	and certified by VESID, and assist participants to
18	access the vocational training opportunities based
19	on our experience with ex-offenders in need of
20	vocational rehabilitation services. We meet one of
21	the requirements to access that kind of VESID
22	service. Achievement is the primary goal of our
23	educational program.
24	I'm trying to be just brief

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		Page 81
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	1 age of
2	MS. O'DONNELL: Will you be able	
3	to summarize?	
4	FR. YOUNG: Yeah, I am, and I	
5	will do that now.	
6	MS. O'DONNELL: Okay.	
7	FR. YOUNG: I will leave the	
8	other, if you want to read it, it's there.	
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.	
10	FR. YOUNG: And therefore, I just	
11	want to thank you and I appreciate the opportunity	
12	of being here to discuss it with you.	
13	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you, Father	
14	Young. Thank you.	
15	FR. YOUNG: Forty-eight, fifty	
16	years of frustration.	
17	MR. LENTOL: Excuse me. If I	
18	just may, Peter	
19	FR. YOUNG: Yes.	
20	MR. LENTOL: Father Young.	
21	FR. YOUNG: Yes, Joe.	
22	MR. LENTOL: I just wanted to	
23	make a comment that I wanted to as a state	
24	representative, I wanted to thank you for your	

		Page 82
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	fifty years of service, and for doing the work that	
3	the state that should have been done by the	
4	state in reentry. It's really been rewarding to	
5	have worked with you over the last several years	
6	that I have had pleasure in doing so.	
7	Thank you, sir.	
8	FR. YOUNG: Thank you, Joe.	
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very	
10	much, Father Young.	
11	FR. YOUNG: Thank you.	
12	MS. O'DONNELL: Our next speaker	
13	is Larry Flanagan from NYSCOPBA.	
14	Welcome.	
15	MR. FLANAGAN: Good morning.	
16	Good morning, Commissioner	
17	O'Donnell, Assemblyman Lentol, members of the	
18	Commission, I want to thank you for giving me the	
19	opportunity to present testimony today regarding	
20	your continuing efforts to review New York State's	
21	current sentencing structure and practices.	
22	As you can imagine individuals I	
23	represent here today are keenly interested in all	
24	aspects of the correctional system in New York	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

Page 83

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	State. My name is Larry Flanagan, Jr. I am the
3	president of the New York State Correctional
4	Officers and Police Benevolent Association,
5	NYSCOPBA.
6	NYSCOPBA represents more than
7	twenty-three thousand critical uniformed law
8	enforcement personnel across the state who provide
9	care, custody and control of the more than sixty
10	thousand inmates inside New York prisons.
11	To put it bluntly, many of our
12	members deal with the worst of the worst, our
13	members deal with murderers, rapists, drug dealers
14	and child molesters. The populations are the
15	nation's fourth largest correctional system. It's
16	because of the professionalism we bring to the job
17	every day that New York prisons are the safest in
18	the nation.
19	We proudly represent the security
20	hospital treatment assistants and safety and
21	security officers who provide the security and
22	maintain the safety of our state mental health
23	institutions. Our membership also consists of
24	security service assistants who provide security at
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hear

Page 84

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	state facilities on a multiagency level and warrant
3	transport officers employed by the Division of
4	Parole who travel across the country returning
5	parole violators to New York. The membership also
6	include capital police communication specialists,
7	security screening technicians, forest rangers and
8	the office of parks and recreation, lifeguards,
9	correction and community assistants and security
10	officers.
11	I would like to focus my remarks
12	today into a few crucial areas of concern with
13	respect to any detailed evaluation of the
14	sentencing reform.
15	As I understand it, the goal of
16	this Commission is to conduct a comprehensive
17	review of state laws governing how persons are
18	sentenced and released from prison and a close
19	examination of the alternatives to incarceration.
20	While there is no question a comprehensive review
21	of sentencing is long overdue, we might disagree on
22	what the focus of the reform should be.
23	I read with great interest your
24	preliminary recommendations from a few weeks ago.

Page 85

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	I fully support a number of your conclusions,
3	including establishing a purpose-sensitive
4	commission to serve as an advisory body to
5	legislative and executive branches. And two,
6	enacting new laws and better enforcing existing
7	statutes to further protect victims of crime and
8	enhance their right to have a meaningful voice in
9	the criminal justice process.
10	NYSCOPBA's number one concern is
11	keeping the community safe. We believe that it has
12	been proven and supported that these individuals
13	need to be incarcerated and follow a structured
14	life.
15	We would strongly suggest more
16	shop programs, specifically designed to teach an
17	individual about the challenges of dealing with
18	everyday life as they continue outside the prison
19	walls. Treatment programs are essential in a
20	controlled environment. We certainly feel the drug
21	dealers need to be off our streets, even if they
22	have not committed a violent crime.
23	Let us not forget that recently
24	an individual who was released into a community on
	Associated Demosters Intil Inc. 11/15/2007 Albane, NV Dublic Hearing

Page 86

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	a furlough under the pretense of a job interview,
3	almost immediately shot his ex-girlfriend. Keeping
4	in mind his original sentence was, that is correct,
5	a drug conviction.
6	NYSCOPBA has never opposed a
7	thoughtful complete assessment of sentencing
8	guidelines in New York. However, what we do
9	strongly oppose the use of the term community-based
10	treatment alternative sentences as a cover to
11	pursue privatization.
12	Many of us come from different
13	backgrounds, have had different experiences and are
14	involved in corrections at different points. We
15	will probably all agree that one of the
16	government's top priorities is the protection of
17	its citizens. Quite simply, it's something that
18	public sector provides that is far superior to
19	anything that the private sector has to offer.
20	Clearly the rationale for privatization is to save
21	the state money, and I still understand the need
22	for smart budgeting, especially in light of recent
23	forecast in the upcoming budget year. While it's
24	certainly a good policy to continue to pursue ways
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Page 87

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	to save the state dollar, it should not be at the
3	expense of law enforcement and public protection.
4	NYSCOPBA feels that blindly pursing this initiative
5	would be penny wise and pound foolish, placing the
6	public in harm's way.
7	In closing, I once again like to
8	thank you for providing NYSCOPBA the opportunity to
9	discuss these important issues with you. NYSCOPBA
10	firmly believes that these proposed changes will
11	directly impact the safety and security of our
12	families and their respective communities.
13	I would be happy to answer any
14	questions that you might have or please feel free
15	to contact me personally.
16	Thank you.
17	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you, Mr.
18	Flanagan.
19	MR. FLANAGAN: Thank you very
20	much.
21	MS. O'DONNELL: I don't believe
22	that we have any recommendation about privatization
23	in our report. If that was the impression you got,
24	that wasn't part of the intention of the
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		Page 88
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	C
2	Commission, if that rest makes you rest more	
3	assured	
4	MR. FLANAGAN: Uh-huh.	
5	MS. O'DONNELL: that that	
6	is not the direction that the Commission is	
7	pursuing.	
8	MR. FLANAGAN: Okay.	
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Is there any	
10	other questions?	
11	Thank you very much.	
12	MR. FLANAGAN: Thank you very	
13	much.	
14	MS. O'DONNELL: Alison Coleman	
15	from Prison Families of New York.	
16	Welcome, Ms. Coleman.	
17	MS. COLEMAN: Thank you, good	
18	morning, Commissioners.	
19	In 1981, my husband went to	
20	prison for twenty-five years to life for robbery	
21	three, no weapon and no injury. He came home two	
22	years ago. During the last few years federal court	
23	rulings have indicated that his sentence, which was	
24	the absolute most that could be given to a	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	persistent felony offender, was very likely
3	unconstitutional because the added years were given
4	out by the judge and not the jury. A jury might
5	have sentenced differently after the two days of
6	positive testimony of his sentencing hearing. The
7	judge in this case had earlier made a statement
8	that he intended to give out as many hundreds of
9	years as possible before his retirement. So, our
10	family did twenty-five years.
11	In 1981, there was no local,
12	regional or state entity that offered prison
13	families any help in surviving the prison
14	experience, worked with our children to maintain
15	their emotional and educational health, offered
16	transportation to remote prisons, or explained the
17	complex rules that change from month to month and
18	prison to prison.
19	The prospect of living
20	twenty-five years outside of the scope of any
21	available services was terrifying, so I created
22	Prison Families of New York to meet my own needs,
23	and those of what was eventually thousands of
24	families and children of prisoners. But many

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	families called upon our agency after their loved
3	one has been in prison from months or years. Many
4	tell us they needed us during their loved one's
5	incarceration, but they had no idea we were there.
6	Many do not find us. Many families fall apart.
7	Of course, this does not has to
8	happen. Albany County District Attorney David
9	Soares and I and two local human services agencies
10	are ready to start a limited program of information
11	and support for the families of those going to
12	prison from Albany County. Being available at the
13	most difficult time in the poor households with
14	relevant information about prison and prison family
15	resources, we will increase the chance of the
16	family's survival through an enormous system that
17	has never before been adequately charted and
18	interpreted to families at this stage of
19	incarceration.
20	This plan could easily be
21	replicated in every county. If New York State
22	truly wants to include prison families and the
23	prison reentry process and believes that, quote,
24	prison reentry starts on day one, unquote, then

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		Page 91
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	this is a first and vital step.	
3	If we do not find prison families	
4	at the beginning of the process, we will lose many	
5	forever. As a state, we must finally recognize the	
6	needs of prison families and the important role we	
7	families play in progressive criminal justice.	
8	Thank you.	
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very	
10	much.	
11	Any questions?	
12	We appreciate you for being here	
13	today, thank you.	
14	Michael Ranalli, chief of the	
15	Glenville Police Department. Chief Ranalli, thank	
16	you very much for joining us.	
17	MR. RANALLI: Thank you for	
18	having me.	
19	Good morning. Well, to be honest	
20	you have no idea who I am. So, because of some of	
21	the things that I am going to say this morning over	
22	the next few minutes, I just want to take a couple	
23	of minutes just to to tell you who I am. I have	
24	been a police officer for twenty-two years, the	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

Page 92

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	first twenty-two of which with the county policy
3	department, and I had the opportunity to take the
4	chief's position at Glenville and I did so.
5	I'm also a graduate of Albany Law
6	School and a member of the bar, and I have spent
7	most of my career as a law enforcement officer as a
8	trainer, and I do a variety of teaching in all
9	issues of criminal justice, a lot of search and
10	seizure and different things.
11	As a matter of fact,
12	Commissioner, you are my boss, I'm going to try and
13	reserve the last minute to beg for a raise. You
14	know, I I teach classes for the Division of
15	Criminal Justice Services.
16	So, I I want you to understand
17	that, because this is my life, and I have spent,
18	again, twenty-two years trying to keep policing
19	professional, and keep officers doing what they're
20	supposed to be doing. I found this to be a very
21	good opportunity to come and speak to you because
22	from what I have seen, there hasn't been a
23	tremendous amount of input from from police
24	officers. I I would like to start out by
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing

Page 93

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	commenting on something that District Attorney
3	Murphy brought up this morning, and that was on
4	D.N.A. collection.
5	Now, I know it's not in your
6	report, but again, from my experience, I think it's
7	important to consider that as part of any
8	comprehensive plan. The collection of D.N.A. has
9	been a tremendous asset to the criminal justice
10	community.
11	Now, I'm not just talking
12	strictly in the sense of making sure that we are
13	increasing a likelihood of identifying and
14	apprehending criminals. Obviously that's going to
15	be true. But the other item of concern, especially
16	for me as a trainer in trying to make sure that we
17	conduct our investigations properly, is what has
18	happened with the advent of D.N.A. and the increase
19	in testing, is that all of the false confessions
20	and mistaken identifications and and other
21	things that have led to wrongful convictions, that
22	is something that we, as police, are very concerned
23	about, and as is the prosecution.
24	And the D.N.A. has kind of turned

Page 94

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	into the instant replay of the criminal justice
3	system. It gives us a chance to realize that our
4	system is not perfect, and and mistakes are
5	made. So, I would strongly encourage you to to
6	adopt that as part of any plan that you have.
7	Now, with my background in
8	criminal justice, I'm frequently asked by officers,
9	"what do you think this person would get if they
10	were sentenced to this?" And my answer, quite
11	honestly, is "I have absolutely no idea, and I'm
12	not even sure where to look."
13	So, finding the recommendations
14	for the determinant sentencing and and the
15	combining of a lot of the the different
16	sentencing provisions and everything would be very,
17	very helpful to us. We frequently have more
18	contact we the police, have frequently more
19	contact with victims than just about anybody else
20	in the criminal justice system for for most
21	crimes. So, our ability to help them navigate
22	through that and understand what the possibilities
23	are would would be tremendous.

Page 95

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	me, as a police officer with a narrow range of
3	flexibility, would definitely seem to make the most
4	sense.
5	Now, I also heard something
6	encouraging with with a question that was asked
7	today. Basically the theme of this portion by
8	the way, I have submitted my written testimony,
9	so I was very encouraged by the evidence-based
10	practices portion of your of your report.
11	And but what I see in in from my
12	experience, again, is that the determinant
13	sentencing, youthful offender, and the
14	evidence-based practices and alternative sentencing
15	should be all related, and this goes to the
16	question that was asked by Commissioner Vance
17	earlier from of Probation, and I see the
18	three the four actually as all being
19	interrelated.
20	The adoption of a determinant
21	sentence provision, I think, would make the
22	expansion of the youthful offender provision, as
23	you have recommended I think to be extremely
24	important, increasing it to nineteen to twenty

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	with, what I really like, is spring-back provision.
3	One of the classes I teach for
4	D.C.J.S. is is on the causation and prevention
5	of school violence, and I have done a lot of
6	research in that area, and a lot of that
7	necessarily is the physiological aspects of the
8	development of the adolescent brain; and it's just
9	a proven fact that it takes a long time for for
10	young adults to fully develop their decisionmaking
11	capabilities. And as a result, I really do think
12	that that youthful offenders are very, very
13	useful tool, and and again, with the spring-back
14	very important.
15	But one of the side effects of
16	that of that research that I did in that, is the
17	realization that we are creating a number of kids
18	who are seriously troubled. And in the I
19	probably will not have time right now, but in the
20	materials, I have some quotes from from some
21	kids, very young kids, one an eleven year old,
22	"now, back to my sad little useless life, and I am
23	usually sitting and waiting to die, waiting and
24	hoping; " a fourteen year old, "I pray that someone
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	will take mercy upon my soulless intractable pain
3	and emotional torment I call a body." These are
4	just a couple of examples I threw in there.
5	There's another one in there as well.
6	These are kids that, because of a
7	variety of reasons, again which are cited in there,
8	but it goes beyond the scope of this hearing, that
9	have some serious issues, and they need to be
10	identified as early as possible in the process.
11	Because reading some past testimony, I believe
12	Judge Brunetti, when you were in in July gave
13	you a Boy Scout example of a burglary case verdict,
14	the kid would receive three and a half years.
15	Well, that Boy Scout, and these kids that have
16	these type of writings in their journals they
17	needed to be treated a little bit differently
18	during the sentencing aspect and during the
19	treatment aspect afterwards.
20	And and sometimes, those kids
21	don't grow out of this, and continue on, and will
22	appear in a criminal justice system. The risk
23	assessment instrument that is discussed, I think
24	is is just absolutely incredibly valuable, and

Page 98

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	should go to the question of why did the person do
3	what they did?
4	It's a simple question, but
5	obviously the answers is is full of
6	possibilities. But as again, as I see it from
7	my position in law enforcement, what I would like
8	to see that that instrument used for, is right
9	at the beginning, right for whether it's the
10	local criminal court judge, or the the county
11	court judge to use that, number one, as a guide,
12	and if you do determine a range of determinant
13	sentences, where in the range should this fall,
14	based upon the the findings of this report?
15	Where should should Y.O. status be granted to
16	this person? And finally, the programming before
17	the conviction.
18	Now, very quickly I I a
19	very important part of this is I just want to give
20	you an example of talking about sentencing reform
21	and alternative nonincarceratory dispositions. And
22	in in your materials that I have submitted,
23	there is an article no, not an article, excuse
24	me, a story I wrote in about Jack and Jill, I

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	dubbed them. And I will I will condense it
3	right down:
4	Jill is a destitute crack addict
5	and prostitute who was caught coming out of the big
6	box store with a garbage can full of of stolen
7	material and giving it to Jack who is waiting for
8	it. Jack is a drug dealer, and whatever else
9	services he commanded over her. And our officers
10	made an arrest of Jack and Jill, and basically what
11	he would do is he would give her a list and tell
12	her, go in and get this. And then, he would bring
13	the materials back and and bring to the person
14	that requested them all and he would reward her
15	with crack. And so, we arrested them.
16	And what I would love to see, and
17	I think all police officers would love to see, is
18	that Jack and Jill needed to be treated
19	differently. Jill, that when asked the question
20	why, Jill, you're going to find the answer is going
21	to be substance abuse problem, lack of job skills,
22	a variety of other things. She needs to be
23	treated. If you just and and I remember upon
24	her arraignment thinking, she's going to go to
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

		Page 100
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	county jail possibly for a while, she's going to	
3	come back, she's just going to be here again.	
4	Jack on the other hand, is the	
5	predator. He's a businessman. He has made a	
6	cost/benefit analysis and he is plying his trade	
7	and he is preying on people like Jill, and Jack	
8	belongs in jail. And that's that's plain and	
9	simple.	
10	So, anything that would help	
11	to to to help that process along would	
12	would be would be very helpful. And I'm I'm	
13	glad to hear the progress that's already been made	
14	by probation.	
15	The last major topic that I had	
16	is again in the materials - and and I'm just	
17	about out of time - and that's on parole violators.	
18	And as a police officer, I'm sure that you you	
19	will not be surprised at my position. I will try	
20	and sum that up as this:	
21	Typically and I'm not trying	
22	to paint a broad stroke here, typically people that	
23	are serving time are already recidivists. They	
24	have already committed crimes, and more likely than	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

Page 101

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	not, haven't been caught for with them. I do
3	not think that it's unreasonable to demand of them
4	that they comply with a reasonably crafted set of
5	rules as part of their excuse me, parole or
6	probation. And if they violate those rules, I say,
7	I I feel that that is a litmus test of whether
8	or not they are actually out there committing other
9	crimes that they are not being caught doing.
10	And the rest is in my paper. And
11	thank you very much for your time.
12	MS. O'DONNELL: I appreciate you
13	appearing here, Chief. Sorry, I wasn't aware that
14	you were one of our employees, but
15	MR. RANALLI: No, that's quite
16	all right.
17	MS. O'DONNELL: We'll talk about
18	the raise later on. See how we do in the budget
19	process.
20	Our next speaker is Tana Agostini
21	from Narcotics Anonymous.
22	Ms. Agostini, welcome.
23	MS. AGOSTINI: Thank you. Thank
24	you, Madam Chairperson, Assemblyman, members of the

Page 102

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Sentencing Reform Commission, for allowing me to
3	testify before you today.
4	My name is Tana Agostini, and I
5	am here to briefly testify as a member of Narcotics
6	Anonymous, and then to bear witness as a private
7	citizen regarding sex offenders.
8	I am a twenty-three-year veteran
9	in Narcotics Anonymous, a twelve-step program. I
10	have volunteered for several years with the
11	Department of Correctional Services, for which I
12	installed and coordinated N.A. meetings at six
13	correctional facilities. I brought with me
14	approximately three-dozen male volunteers, and
15	served mostly with A-one violent felons. Today, I
16	volunteer with the women at my local county jail
17	and at community-based treatment programs in my
18	area.
19	I am also chairperson of the
20	Greater New York Region Narcotics Anonymous,
21	overseeing our services in fourteen lower counties.
22	Lastly, I employ ex-offenders and a level-two sex
23	offender in the business that I own and operate in
24	Ulster County.

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	N.A., as such, has no opinion on
3	issues outside of N.A., so I struggled greatly in
4	what I would be permitted to say as an N.A. member.
5	I cannot represent N.A., but qualify that my
6	experiences with with DOCS, incarcerated persons
7	and formerly incarcerated persons result from being
8	both a long-time member and a long-time volunteer
9	for N.A.
10	In my twenty-three years of
11	recovery, I have known thousands of addicts to
12	recover and reintegrate as productive members of
13	society. A great many of our members are also
14	persons formerly incarcerated. Those of us who
15	succeed in recovery, and I would like to draw a
16	parallel to those who do well in prison and do well
17	upon reentry, are those who participate in a
18	long-term program, and who thereby develop a
19	support system of others who have succeeded before
20	them in essence to mentor them.
21	So, the hardcore sentencing
22	members on this Commission, allow me to point out
23	that sentencing laws will only merit integrity to
24	the extend that they result in an equal measure of
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 104

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	rehabilitation during the punitive time of
3	incarceration. You must not dismiss, as unrelated
4	to sentencing reform, the effect of reinstating
5	higher education, increased funding for DOCS
6	program development and availability, increased use
7	of volunteers and community-based programs in the
8	prisons, and expanding the eligibility of work
9	release and merit time, which provide incentives to
10	all classes of felons, even though we only seem to
11	reserve it for a few.
12	The product DOCS delivers is
13	directly proportionate to the success of reentry,
14	and therefore the effectiveness of our sentencing
15	laws.
16	Prison is full of subcultures,
17	inmates divide themselves amongst one another in
18	any number of ways. Narcotics Anonymous in
19	particular, and not dissimilar to Alcoholics
20	Anonymous, is a program that helps create
21	subcommunities and cliques within correctional
22	facilities comprised with inmates that wish to stay
23	clean and utilize programs to better themselves,
24	and the means to disassociate themselves from

Page 105

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	inmates who do not.
3	Our fellowship is diverse, but
4	our public statistics show that fifty-four percent
5	of us are over the age of forty, eighty-two percent
6	of us are employed and fifty-five percent of us are
7	clean over six years, in my case, twenty-three
8	years. We represent an ideal program, full of
9	mentors and role models for incarcerated persons,
10	and we exist beyond the walls, free of charge, to
11	support an active reentry.
12	I will never forget the day that
13	I brought a former bank robber to our program at a
14	max state facility. He had served sixteen years in
15	max and had been a heroin addict who had previously
16	been in thirty-two detoxes and treatment programs.
17	Today, he has eighteen years clean, a Ph.D., and
18	owns and operates a licensed psychotherapy clinic
19	dedicated dedicated to serving the ex-offender
20	community. He told our A-ones that he is happier
21	today and making more money helping people than he
22	ever did robbing banks.
23	What changed him? It started
24	with the G.E.D. he got in prison, and N.A. which he

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	also found in prison.
3	On another note, but not as an
4	N.A. member, I recently attended a public hearing
5	in Kingston, New York, regarding sex-offender
6	housing. What I found were one hundred and ten
7	city residents who were by far more intimidating
8	than any of the A-one felons I have ever
9	volunteered with.
10	The citizens were hostile and
11	angry, heckling and yelling at the county officials
12	who dared to consider allowing the state to house
13	fifteen sex offenders at our old county jail. They
14	were outraged that sex offenders that live in our
15	county, in spite of the fact that they came from
16	our county in the first place, and in spite of the
17	fact that one hundred and ninety-nine sex offenders
18	already live here with no recidivism and sex
19	offenses that our police department, who wasn't
20	presented at the hearing, could report of.
21	I made several observations I
22	would like to share with you: I noticed that the
23	public has little to no understanding of the
24	difference between types of sex offenses, and
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	believes that all of them are pedophiles, which
3	apparently they are not. But the generic labeling
4	of sex offenders isn't making that clear.
5	The requirement of sex offenders
6	to continue registering as such when their parole
7	or probation supervision time is expired is causing
8	the public anxiety and confusion, and creating a
9	series of unintended consequences, as this
10	Commission well knows.
11	The public questions that a sex
12	offender still needs to register, why aren't they
13	still being supervised? Creating an opportunity
14	for the public to better protect themselves, also
15	creates the appearance that the state is not
16	adequately protecting them.
17	My community also had no
18	understanding of the difference between those on
19	parole or probation, and the difference between
20	misdemeanor crimes that result in jail or the
21	felonies that result in prison. The community
22	feels that no sex offense should be merely a
23	misdemeanor, that they should all be felonies and
24	carry greater sentences and supervision than they
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

		Page 108
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	currently do.	
3	The city residents also complain	
4	greatly about the rights of offenders, and felt the	
5	victims had no rights.	
6	I found it surprising knowing	
7	that A-one violent felons can hardly get out of	
8	prison, can't get off of parole and can't ever	
9	vote. Furthermore, that the testimony of one	
10	victim can keep an A-one felon from his family, on	
11	my tax dollar, for an indeterminate number of	
12	years, when statistics show that extra years will	
13	make no measurable difference.	
14	It would be untrue to say that	
15	the offenders are privileged to too many rights,	
16	but perhaps the rights we are denying offenders are	
17	not so supported by the public.	
18	Recidivism rates provided by our	
19	county were from Cananda's corrections, and the	
20	State is criticized for not releasing our	
21	statistics since 2001.	
22	Even I have such statistics till	
23	2005, which I found released by the state on the	
24	Internet, yet my county believes that the state has	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

Page 109

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	not provided it.
3	I did, by the way, get up to the
4	microphone and was the only person to support the
5	State's request for our old jail, and I did speak
6	for the fact that we do have recent statistics, but
7	I, alone, made no measurable difference.
8	Only twenty of our county sex
9	offenders actually are on parole, sixty are on
10	probation and the remaining one hundred and
11	nineteen are unsupervised. Fifty percent of all
12	sex offenses were reported by my county to have
13	been committed by adolescents. Yet it is clear
14	that the county was not going to allow the state
15	use of our own jail, not because any of the ten
16	percent of our sex offenders who are on parole have
17	recidivated, but because our current relations with
18	the community leave them unable to distinguish
19	between the various categorizes of sex offenses,
20	much less the various agencies of our county and
21	the State. State agencies, like sex offenders,
22	were one big blur.
23	I subsequently noticed that sex
24	offenders who lived and recidivated elsewhere,

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	showed up on my county's registry, because the
3	prison they now reside in is located in my county.
4	This serves to falsely inflate the number of sex
5	offenders residing in Ulster County lending
6	unmerited increase to their alarm.
7	Unpopular as this may sound,
8	because we are increasingly adding new crimes and
9	categories of sex offenses that must register,
10	which include misdemeanors, and as we plan to
11	maintain registrations for between twenty and
12	thirty years, we will eventually develop a sex
13	registry larger than our state prison population.
14	With a multitude of crimes as confusing us the
15	sentencing laws we are now trying to streamline.
16	To the extent that we continue
17	this labeling and registration practice, we will
18	continue to find ourselves with an increasing
19	number of unintended consequences. To the extent
20	that misdemeanor and felony offenses that result in
21	probation outpaced felony offenses that result in
22	parole three to one, at least in Ulster County,
23	should that hold true for the rest of the State,
24	when we do find that the sex offender registry

Page 111

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	exceeds the size of our state prison population,
3	the state, as represented by DOCS and Division of
4	Parole, may, once again, be held responsible for
5	those crimes and recidivist statistics, as they
6	were in Ulster County, and yet DOCS and Parole,
7	statistically speaking, will not have been
8	responsible for more than one-quarter for persons
9	on that registry, unintended consequences.
10	In summary, I would like to
11	suggest we work more closely with counties who, to
12	some extent, symbolize the State, but seemingly
13	throw us to the wolves in their absence. We need
14	to educate the public, not only on sex offenders
15	but on offenders in general, and the results of our
16	tax dollars at work in the Department of
17	Corrections and Division of Parole, which are
18	putting out a lot of good results in spite of the
19	constant criticism.
20	Public relations and
21	cultivated cultivated media relations are worth
22	considering. For every statistics that says that
23	one in three parolees violate recidivate, there
24	are two who do not, this represent success.

Page 112

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	That the violent offenders on
3	on whom we are also tough about crime, and tough on
4	sentencing, we're talking parole release, that they
5	have the lowest rate of recidivism there is,
6	confirmed by the former Commissioner Dennison,
7	himself, on Tuesday that they have all people who
8	actually represent least threat to society upon
9	release.
10	Like any other addict clean over
11	two years, or a mature A-one felon, for that
12	matter, I am nothing like what I was when I got
13	clean twenty-three years ago, and thank God I am
14	not judged for my actions twenty-three years ago,
15	or from comments by a judge's sentencing minutes or
16	presentence report that was also written over two
17	decades ago. But rather I am judged on my
18	attitudes and behaviors today.
19	A-one violent felons, who are the
20	same youth offenders the chief just spoke of
21	twenty-five years later. A-one violent felons
22	should have the same opportunities for release that
23	would give to sex offenders and every other class
24	of felons, who statistically would seem to merit it
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

800.523.7887

Page 113

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	less than the long-term A-one violent felons do.
3	There is no logic or measurable
4	gain derived from denying merit time and work
5	release to long-term A-one felons, but there would
6	be measurable gain if we did. Ironically, the
7	people we spend the most time incarcerating, when
8	we release released, statistically are our best
9	examples of success.
10	As we seem to be working on
11	reentry for everybody else, please consider
12	developing a preboard reentry program for long-term
13	A-one violent felons, who have proven themselves
14	more susceptible on reentry, than the other
15	twenty-six thousand inmates we release each year.
16	Thank you for allowing me to
17	testify today.
18	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very
19	much.
20	Yes, we do have questions.
21	MR. ALEXANDER: Ms. Agostini, if
22	I can ask you just one or two questions, with
23	regards to your part of your presentation that
24	dealt with the sex offenders in your county, and I
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

800.523.7887

Page 114

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	believe you said that part of the opposition was
3	attributed to a lack of understanding of the
4	various levels of sex offenses.
5	MS. AGOSTINI: That is correct,
6	that's right.
7	MR. ALEXANDER: If that was to
8	occur, there were some some education process
9	went out to give an understanding, or make a better
10	understanding of the various levels, would that
11	make an appreciable difference in terms of the
12	acceptance of the sex offenders in that particular
13	county?
14	MS. AGOSTINI: I believe it would
15	make some level of difference. Mostly nobody wants
16	it in their backyard, but I think that greater
17	education will will calm the fear and help them
18	to become more rational in dealing with a very real
19	problem that they have to address. They do not
20	address them, the sex offenders are scattered all
21	over the county, and the state is denied a good
22	facility, in which to provide the needed program.
23	MR. ALEXANDER: How would you
24	structure an educational campaign of that sort?

1		Page 115
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	MS. AGOSTINI: I would definitely	
3	have to put some work into that, but it would	
4	certainly consist of working more closely with our	
5	county representatives who would speak on your	
6	behalf when you're not there.	
7	MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you.	
8	MS. AGOSTINI: Thank you, sir.	
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you for	
10	your thoughtful comments.	
11	Our next speaker is Patricia	
12	Gioia from the Parents of Murdered Children.	
13	Ms. Gioia, welcome.	
14	MS. GIOIA: Thank you, good	
15	morning.	
16	I'm starting off my statement by	
17	saying the victim, no less than the defendant, has	
18	a real and personal interest in seeing the	
19	imposition of a just penalty. The goal of victim	
20	participation is not to pressure justice, but to	
21	aid in its attainment. That is from the	
22	President's Task Force on Crime 1982.	
23	First of all, I think did you	
24	mention I'm chapter leader of Parents of Murdered	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

Page 116

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Children and Other Survivors of Homicide Victims?
3	This letter is written to express
4	some of the concerns of families of homicide
5	victims as you and the other distinguished members
6	of the Commission on Sentencing Reform consider
7	such a reform in New York State. We are concerned
8	that a reform of sentencing, by adopting a
9	predominantly determinant sentencing structure,
10	might eventually lead to abolishing parole in many
11	cases.
12	Parole has been, and we sincerely
13	hope it will continue to be, an important part of
14	our advocacy in the name of our loved ones who no
15	longer have a voice. Crimes changed the makeup of
16	our families, and has effected us in a myriad of
17	ways. As the Commission considers changes in
18	sentences, victim's families want to be assured
19	that they will continue to have a voice at a parole
20	hearing when the parole of the inmate is being
21	considered.
22	The Parole Board, which will make
23	the decision on the inmate's release, needs to hear
24	directly from the victim or family members how the
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Page 117

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	crime has continued to affect their lives since the
3	time of sentencing. Also the Parole Board members
4	will have the opportunity to learn the true story
5	of a crime from mouths of the victims, in our cases
6	the family of the deceased victim, which may or may
7	not have been accurately portrayed during the
8	trial. We, therefore, ask that the victim's
9	perspective as to possible release of the offender
10	be continued by such prerelease hearings.
11	In addition, a decision of
12	release is contemplated, an an accurate picture
13	of restitution payments still owed to the victim
14	should be established, as well as any orders of
15	protection that will need to be enforced upon the
16	inmate's released.
17	We support the recommendation
18	that the laws governing the rights of crime victims
19	in New York be moved into a single article of law,
20	either the Criminal Procedure Law or the Penal Law.
21	Consolidation of these laws will be beneficial to
22	crime victims as the present hodgepodge placement
23	of our rights and protections often makes
24	enforcement difficult.

Page 118

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	We strongly agree with the
3	Commission's finding that indeterminate sentences
4	should continue for the most egregious offenses
5	that now require maximum life sentences nondrug
6	class A-one and class A-two felonies. A decision
7	contemplating change to determinate sentencing for
8	any crimes must be looked at long and hard to
9	facilitate absolute fairness and justice to the
10	victims of these crimes.
11	We've become aware that during
12	the recent months a number of inmates sentenced to
13	lengthy prison terms for brutal murders of their
14	victims are now being considered for parole. Even
15	though many years may have passed since these
16	crimes were committed, parole of a murderer can be
17	very difficult for the aggrieved families to
18	accept. We believe it should occur only after a
19	meeting with the victim's families and giving
20	special attention to their concerns.
21	POMC, Parents of Murdered
22	Children, has always encouraged our members and
23	other families of homicide victims to register with
24	the Department of Correctional Services to receive

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	notice when an inmate is to be released from
3	prison. We also encourage them to register with
4	the Division of Parole to be notified of scheduled
5	parole hearings so that they may have input on the
6	inmate's parole, and when paroled, to be notified
7	of the release date and the name of the parole
8	officer.
9	Over the years, this has
10	continued to be burdensome, with the results that
11	families have often registered with one agency and
12	not the other, or in the worst-case scenario
13	neither.
14	Might we suggest that one form be
15	utilized to give notice to both agencies of a
16	desire to be notified of a parole hearing and/or
17	imminent release from the Department of
18	Correctional Services?
19	We believe this would be easier
20	over all on victims and victim's families, and
21	hopefully more efficient for the agencies involved.
22	We realize that your task of
23	reviewing the conundrum of sentencing laws in our
24	State is a mammoth task, and we wish you well as
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	you continue. Since crime victims have fought long
3	and hard to have a say and a role in the criminal
4	justice system, we want to share our input to you
5	and the Commission members.
6	Thank you for letting me speak.
7	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you so much
8	and thank you for your suggestion. We did hear
9	testimony about the number of victims that can't be
10	located at the address that they originally
11	registered in and what a problem it is
12	MS. GIOIA: Yes it is.
13	MS. O'DONNELL: in trying to
14	maintain contact with victims, and your assistance
15	and your suggestions that we try to streamline the
16	process are very good ones.
17	MS. GIOIA: Thank you so much.
18	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very
19	much.
20	MS. GIOIA: I appreciate it.
21	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you. And
22	our next speaker is Julie McClurkin. McClurkin?
23	I also want to recognize
24	Assemblyman Jeff Aubry, who is here incognito in
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	the back of the room, whose been a tremendous
3	leader in in the criminal justice field and
4	reform of of our drug laws, and and has
5	advocated reentry long before it resonated in the
6	minds of of so many of our state agencies who
7	have served us and welcome.
8	MS. MCCLURKIN: Good morning, my
9	name is Julie McClurkin, I'm actually a resident of
10	New York, I don't belong to any type of
11	organization. I'm basically here advocating for an
12	inmate that is in the system. He is serving time
13	under the old Rockefeller Drug Laws. He is a class
14	B, he is serving now his fifteenth year of fifteen
15	to thirty sentence. He has been denied every type
16	of possible parole, work release furlough,
17	everything, based on his past criminal history,
18	which he will never be able to change.
19	Unfortunately, we have he's
20	been in there for 15 years, he has yet to receive
21	his G.E.D., he has yet to be put in the programming
22	that he needs in order to obtain his G.E.D. He has
23	reached out to many different parts of the
24	Department of Corrections, as well as throughout
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 122

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	the New York State, as well as myself, trying to
3	advocate and trying to help and assist him in
4	getting the things he need to succeed out here in
5	the world.
6	Unfortunately there are many of
7	us that are stuck in this system, I prepared a
8	statement here, I'm obviously not reading from it,
9	I've already submitted it, and this is very
10	emotional and it is very difficult.
11	The the suggestions
12	that you have made I do support, they do need
13	support, they need education, they need help, they
14	need guidance. Unfortunately, the way that DOCS is
15	set up, it is not helping the inmates, it is not
16	helping the families, it's not conducive to getting
17	them back out here into the world.
18	Originally, four years ago he was
19	being told he could not be released because of
20	warrants that were outstanding from '93 and '94,
21	unfortunately he had been in the system since '93
22	and '94. It took his sentencing judge to write a
23	court order for him to be produced to resolve those
24	two warrants that should have already been

Page 123

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	long-time address, and ever since he reached out
3	for assistance when his counselors had told him you
4	have to contact the courts, you have to contact
5	them and the courts were telling him you have to
6	produce, how can he produce if he is behind bars,
7	he cannot. The sentencing judge actually took it
8	upon himself, wrote a court order, had him appear
9	in court, the warrants were taken care of. The
10	judge, a couple of months later, contacted the
11	facility suggested they should be getting him into
12	CASAT, that too was denied. Every everything,
13	ASAT, everything has been denied for him.
14	Unfortunately, I am sitting here
15	for selfish reasons, but there are many people that
16	fall into this class B situation, where class A's
17	have already been given the opportunity for
18	resentencing, class Bs have not been given any
19	opportunity for any type of resentencing. Part of
20	the requirements for some of the release programs
21	is you have your G.E.D., he has not been given that
22	opportunity to complete it.
23	That holds up his release as
24	well, that that doesn't allow him the freedom to

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	come home.
3	He has multiple siblings, he has
4	a mother, she was a single parent, there was eight
5	children. Yes, what he did was wrong. He
6	acknowledges that, he does not have a problem
7	admitting to that.
8	Would he return back to that
9	life? No, absolutely not.
10	Does he see that it's entirely
11	different? Absolutely.
12	He's thirty-eight now, he's been
13	in the system since he was twenty-three, and right
14	now there is no hope for any type of release in the
15	near future, he's been told he cannot apply for
16	anything until 2008 again, and then in two years
17	after that they will have him again in front of the
18	Parole Board in two years after they deny him
19	again.
20	Unfortunately, that is just how
21	the system seems to be working in his particular
22	favor, and if you go into people that are in the
23	New York State Department Department of
24	Corrections and speak to them, you you will find
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

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Page 125

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	this repeatedly with a lot of people.
3	I'm at loss for words at this
4	point, I really have nothing else to say.
5	MS. O'DONNELL: Well, we know
6	it's the hardest on on people whose lives are
7	affected, whose family members are affected. So,
8	we appreciate the fact that you were willing to
9	come and share your story with us. So, thank you
10	very much.
11	MS. MCCLURKIN: Thank you.
12	MS. O'DONNELL: I don't know if
13	any of our other we're we're a little bit
14	ahead of schedule because several people have
15	cancelled their testimony, so we maybe able to take
16	a break. If any of our speakers are here could you
17	raise your hands?
18	We will continue. But we're
19	scheduled then to resume at twelve ten, and we will
20	take a brief break until then.
21	Thank you very much.
22	(A recess was taken at 11:46
23	a.m.)
24	(The hearing resumed at 12:24

		Page 126
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	p.m.)	
3	MS. O'DONNELL: The hearing this	
4	afternoon, we have many, many more speakers. So, I	
5	appreciate you all attending. I don't know anyone	
6	that cares more about quality drug treatment for	
7	addicted individuals than our next speaker	
8	Commissioner Karen Carpenter-Palumbo from OASAS.	
9	Karen has a long and distinguished history and	
10	career in the area of substance abuse. She's a	
11	wonderful partner to those of us in the criminal	
12	justice system now, who are working on expanding	
13	treatment to individuals who are addicted to	
14	substances. So, Karen, thank you. I appreciate	
15	you being here today.	
16	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Great.	
17	Great. Denise, it's great for me to be here. A	
18	little raspy with some pneumonia, but it will all	
19	be good.	
20	I I really wanted to come here	
21	certainly as a colleague and congratulate you on	
22	the on the real reform you're bringing to the	
23	the sentencing process in New York State. I also	
24	wanted to be here as you know, we served on the	
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing	800 523 7887

Page 127

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	subcommittee on incarceration and reentry, and I
3	think with the report the area of the report
4	that I want to concentrate on the most is where it
5	stressed the importance of substance abuse
6	treatment in the criminal justice population.
7	And and clearly it acknowledges, and I think we
8	all are in general agreement as we've met over the
9	last several months, that there has been a lack of
10	coordination between the substance abuse the
11	the public health agencies, namely Office of
12	Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and the
13	public safety agencies, you know, the Criminal
14	Justice, Parole, the courts, et cetera, and I think
15	now we have a tremendous opportunity simply to
16	change that, and we have, and we're working on it.
17	For those of you that aren't as
18	familiar with OASAS, we are the largest treatment
19	agency in the country, and we serve a hundred and
20	ten thousand people every day. Our strategy is
21	very simple, prevention, treatment, recovery.
22	Prevent it, we spent about a
23	hundred million dollars trying to prevent
24	alcoholism and substance abuse. We treat it when

Page 128

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	we when we you haven't made successes in
3	prevention, and are clearly helping people on the
4	road to recovery. And all of you, I think, are
5	knowledgeable on on that, in your daily
6	day-to-day lives.
7	I think the concern has been
8	often times, and we have discussed it - certainly
9	Denise and I have discussed it at length - is,
10	oftentimes the criminal justice entities believe
11	that they can make clinical treatment decisions,
12	and oftentimes the clinical treatment individuals
13	think that they can make public safety decisions.
14	Neither is right, neither is wrong.
15	What we want to make sure that
16	happens, and certainly our mandate our joint
17	mandate from the governor is to work together
18	collaboratively to make sure we're addressing, you
19	know, those individuals that come into both of our
20	systems.
21	And I think that of the many
22	statistics that keep us all up at night, certainly
23	the ones relative to this population that concern
24	me the most are the facts that more than half of
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

800.523.7887

Page 129

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	all prison inmates were under the influence of
3	alcohol or drugs when they were arrested; so more
4	than half, we know that that's a fact.
5	We also know, from your own
6	research, which we have spent time on, which is
7	fascinating to me, and I congratulate you on the
8	your ability to track and some of the outcomes in
9	the public safety end of the twenty-six thousand
10	inmates that will be released this year, seventy
11	plus percent of them have a drug and alcohol
12	problem.
13	So, when we know that those are
14	the facts, we know we must do something to address
15	some of our systems, demand it, and I think we also
16	know that those are the folks that we all, from a
16 17	
	know that those are the folks that we all, from a
17	know that those are the folks that we all, from a public safety and a public health arena, know that
17 18	know that those are the folks that we all, from a public safety and a public health arena, know that are the highest risk for recidivism. So, if that's
17 18 19	know that those are the folks that we all, from a public safety and a public health arena, know that are the highest risk for recidivism. So, if that's the case and that's where our concentrated efforts
17 18 19 20	know that those are the folks that we all, from a public safety and a public health arena, know that are the highest risk for recidivism. So, if that's the case and that's where our concentrated efforts have been and will continue to be, and obviously I
17 18 19 20 21	know that those are the folks that we all, from a public safety and a public health arena, know that are the highest risk for recidivism. So, if that's the case and that's where our concentrated efforts have been and will continue to be, and obviously I work extensively with with Denise and Brian
 17 18 19 20 21 22 	know that those are the folks that we all, from a public safety and a public health arena, know that are the highest risk for recidivism. So, if that's the case and that's where our concentrated efforts have been and will continue to be, and obviously I work extensively with with Denise and Brian Fischer and George Alexander.

Page 130

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	collaboration and coordination for care with the
3	Orleans Correctional Facility in Albion. It's a
4	great, I think, joint project, where we finally
5	say we look at the individuals that will, in
6	this case, be relocating to Erie County, and say,
7	"what is let's assess them, let's clearly know
8	from a clinical professional, have then be assessed
9	on what their treatment needs are, and immediately
10	get them into treatment." Immediately. A handoff,
11	a warm handoff, not a referral note. And we are
12	working collaboratively on that project, and that
13	really will mean, you know, intensive case
14	management, working on employment, which is what we
15	all want, working on where are they going to live,
16	and how will they be supported in the community,
17	what are the services they need from a treatment
18	perspective whether it be residential, whether it
19	be outpatient?
20	One of the biggest concerns we
21	have, and I'm sure, Mike, you will remember from
22	the court system, when a judge, for example, will
23	order a twenty-four-month treatment modality, like
24	must be in this residential treatment, a particular
	Associated Penarters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing

Page 131

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	program, and that isn't what clearly needs to
3	happen. Does a person need to be in a treatment
4	modality for twenty-four months? Yes. But it's up
5	to the treatment clinicians to determine which
6	modality.
7	And then, also we have to work
8	collaboratively, so the first time that that
9	individual doesn't show up to an outpatient
10	treatment program, that we notify the appropriate
11	authorities. So, there's got to be more work, and
12	certainly more collaboration. But I think as you
13	look at the reentry project in Orleans, we will
14	want to expand them, and how we need to get on the
15	record for all of us, we expanded through some
16	joint funds. You know, when we look at the dollar
17	amounts, as you know, the prison, you know,
18	whatever debate we have on how much it costs for a
19	prison, and how much it costs in treatment, it's
20	less in a treatment entity. It is a better place
21	to serve somebody in a treatment entity, and have
22	that public safety influence there on a daily
23	basis.
24	And as we begin to expand, we're

Page 132

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	going to look at Edgecombe. You know, we've talked
3	about that. We're going to look at Queensborough.
4	What more can we do there to make sure people are
5	getting the service that we know brought them
6	there, that brought them to, you know, violate
7	their parole, brought them back into prison.
8	And we I think part of my
9	point of being here, because we talked about could
10	I be up there or could I be down here, it's both
11	places coming together to make sure that we know
12	that we stand the public health system, the
13	Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, stands ready
14	to work with our counterparts, and our whole
15	counterparts, which means those that you license
16	and serve in the community and those that we
17	license to work together. And that's a message
18	that we want to make sure happens.
19	So, we're going to look to expand
20	that. Look at Franklin County, what's happening
21	there. Should we also look to expand services in
22	that realm.
23	Now, that's the reentry. As we
24	look we also clearly have to look at what happens
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	within the prisons, and you know, there's been
3	these many statements that have been said that
4	I've argued with my colleagues about, that the
5	the criminal justice system operates the largest
6	treatment agency in the country.
7	I, of course, am going to dispute
8	that as the treatment entity, but not to any
9	to to for a shamed and blame. I want us to
10	jointly decide what is treatment, and where can we
11	get the best outcomes. That is our joint role.
12	We look at Willard right now, the
13	Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse services
14	license the Willard facility, we are going in next
15	month, we are conducting a complete review of the
16	facility to talk about what treatment protocols are
17	happening, what's not happening, where can we
18	improve?
19	And we will look to look at
20	the remaining facilities that we have talked with
21	Brian Fischer about, and how we begin to look at,
22	should the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
23	services be in a position as the lead treatment
24	agency to oversee, in fact, treatment if it is,
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	in fact, treatment happening in our correctional
3	facilities, and that's prisons and that's also
4	jails.
5	That is my responsibility, you
6	know, that I see, and certainly that the governor
7	has given to me, and it's our responsibility,
8	jointly, to work together because our systems
9	demand it. The communities demand it. And the
10	citizens of the state, obviously, that we are
11	trying to serve demand it.
12	So, as we move forward, you know,
13	we're ready. And I think we have done some
14	tremendous work already in in this short seven
15	months. And now, I want everybody to know out
16	there, you know, to look at the Orleans facility,
17	because George and Brian and Denise and I have
18	committed to making that the new model of service.
19	As we talk about the those two
20	facts that can never go off the page, the the
21	fact that fifty percent of people that are arrested
22	and going to prison have drug and alcohol
23	addiction, and that the seventy percent of those
24	being released also have a drug and alcohol
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 135

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	addiction. So, let's deal with the problem, you
3	know, and let's reduce, and let's better serve the
4	people of New York State.
5	So, short and sweet, that is, I
6	think, our message from you, we're doing a lot of
7	work together, and I know it will continue. And I
8	support you and your efforts, and I know you
9	support the public health agenda, as we support the
10	public safety agenda.
11	So, thank you.
12	MS. O'DONNELL: Short and sweet
13	and powerful.
14	MR. ALEXANDER: Right.
15	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Yeah, we
16	try.
17	MS. O'DONNELL: So, any I I
18	really can't thank you enough, because you have
19	been there whenever we reach out on new ideas and
20	new programs that we want to do in the reentry
21	front, and you really are a great partner.
22	Karen, do you we we have
23	heard testimony going back and forth.
24	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Sure.

		Page 136
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	MS. O'DONNELL: But particularly	
3	from the law enforcement community that the	
4	having a sentence prospective sentence hanging	
5	over someone's head is a great motivator for	
6	treatment.	
7	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Uh-huh.	
8	MS. O'DONNELL: Do you find that	
9	to be the case, or?	
10	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: You know	
11	what? Professionally twenty years ago I would have	
12	said no. You know, I said, "no, it's not, they've	
13	got to be ready, they've got to hit rock bottom,"	
14	but as I've gone through my professional career and	
15	I have spend a lot of time sitting with people in	
16	treatment facilities, and asked the question,	
17	"would you be here, if you didn't have that hammer	
18	hanging over your head?" And the answer is no.	
19	So, to me that is that's	
20	why it's the beauty of truly the clinical,	
21	you know, treatment regime, with that idea that,	
22	"if I don't do this, if I don't finally address	
23	this problem that has gotten me into the criminal	
24	justice situation that I'm in, then I will not be	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	able to make a difference in my life," and knowing
3	that "if I leave here, I don't go back home, you
4	know, I go to jail, or I go to prison," that is a
5	motivator. Absolutely.
6	MS. O'DONNELL: Well, we really
7	appreciate it
8	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Yeah.
9	MS. O'DONNELL: I know you are
10	very busy as the commissioner.
11	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Yeah,
12	everybody is.
13	MS. O'DONNELL: And thank you for
14	taking the time.
15	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Yeah.
16	Thank you, and best of luck, and we will be here
17	with you.
18	MS. O'DONNELL: One other
19	question
20	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Yes, oh,
21	sure, sure, sure. Oh, sure.
22	MS. O'DONNELL: sorry.
23	MR. VANCE: This is it's a
24	follow on to Denise's. But we've also heard

Page 138

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	conflicting views on the propriety of a district
3	attorney essentially having a veto as to whether a
4	person goes to your program
5	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Uh-huh.
6	MR. VANCE: as opposed to the
7	judge on his or her own, having that
8	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Uh-huh.
9	MR. VANCE: ability to make
10	the decision.
11	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: You know
12	what? Again, as I said this is you know, I have
13	said this to the judges, and I've said this to the
14	D.A.s. You know what? There are treatment
15	professionals that know what the appropriate
16	treatment modality is based on that individual's
17	needs. And it should be a combined there should
18	be three people sitting at that table, and
19	oftentimes it's not the the the treatment
20	professional. And I think we we utilize
21	resources badly when we say someone has to be in a
22	residential program, you know, that is a higher
23	cost, you know, just because there's a feeling that
24	they have to be protected, and or that society
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing

Page 139

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	is protected because they are in a place. And
3	that's not the case.
4	You know, if someone is an
5	outpatient, if they're in a stable housing
6	environment, but they're going which a majority
7	of New Yorkers, of that hundred and ten thousand,
8	about sixty percent of the New Yorkers are in
9	outpatient care, it's the it's the same. It's
10	absolutely the same.
11	Every day they have to check in,
12	you know, with methadone, as an example, every day
13	they check in. So, I think that clearly the
14	where we have to intercede is to making sure that
15	it's all parties at the table, not just one, you
16	know, and not you know, that the treatment
17	professionals who are experienced in this field
18	have to have that recommendation, and yes, in
19	combination with the parole officer, with the
20	judge, with the D.A.
21	MS. O'DONNELL: We also heard
22	from D.A. Robert Morgenthau that he he
23	recommended something that actually I was surprised
24	wasn't done

		Page 140
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Uh-huh.	
3	MS. O'DONNELL: which is that	
4	everyone get drug tested who comes into the	
5	criminal justice system, so we know upfront before	
6	a presentence report or even perhaps their	
7	release pretrial release whether that individual	
8	is addicted or not.	
9	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Yeah.	
10	You know what, that's not the tell-tale sign in my	
11	view. You know, I'm not going to disagree one way	
12	or the other. But you know, that's why treatment	
13	professionals, in a in a true assessment, will	
14	under will know whether or not somebody is a	
15	user, a seller or truly addicted. And that	
16	based on that assessment, you know, which we have	
17	been trained for clinically throughout many years,	
18	we can determine the best level of care for	
19	treatment, which is the most expedient, the best	
20	suited for that individual and at the appropriate	
21	cost level for that particular individual.	
22	MS. O'DONNELL: So you are saying	
23	it shouldn't be drug drug testing	
24	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Yeah.	

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		Page 141
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	i ugo i i i
2	MS. O'DONNELL: it should be	
3	an a full?	
4	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: A full	
5	assessment that may include drug testing, but not	
6	just a you know, drug testing for all, because	
7	somebody that used yesterday may not be using	
8	you know, may not have an addiction; you know, a	
9	very, very different review, and I'm afraid that it	
10	would go down the wrong path.	
11	As part of, absolutely, as part	
12	of an assessment, certainly. We do it all the	
13	time.	
14	MS. O'DONNELL: Uh-huh.	
15	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Okay.	
16	So, a lot of work to be done, but we'll do it	
17	together.	
18	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.	
19	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: Thank	
20	you.	
21	MS. O'DONNELL: Okay. Thank you	
22	very much.	
23	MS. CARPENTER-PALUMBO: All	
24	right.	

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		Page 142
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	1 ugo 1-12
2	MS. O'DONNELL: Our next speaker	
3	is McKinley Jones from the NAACP Albany chapter.	
4	Is McKinley Jones here?	
5	FROM THE FLOOR: I don't think	
6	he's here.	
7	MS. O'DONNELL: Okay. Hopefully	
8	he will be here shortly.	
9	Joyce Hartwell, All Craft Self	
10	Help program?	
11	Thank you very much, Ms.	
12	Hartwell, for joining us today.	
13	REV. HARTWELL: Hi, I'm Reverend	
14	Joyce Hartwell and I'm actually going to talk about	
15	the past, and a concern that I learned through past	
16	experience. All Craft was an institution for	
17	almost thirty years. We started twenty-five	
18	years. We started in 1976, since 2000 I'm in	
19	Albany and I am also chair of the ARISE Justice	
20	Task Force, which will be testifying next.	
21	I ran this institution for	
22	twenty-five years, a holistic community center. We	
23	ended up we first trained women on welfare with	
24	children to support and women coming from Rikers	
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Island to be carpenters, electricians and plumbers.
3	We were internationally famous for that. We were
4	chosen by the Carter administration as a site to
5	visit for empowering women to do this. We also
6	trained men getting sober on the Bowery.
7	At one point we saw where
8	chemical dependency was absolutely stopping success
9	in job training. We became the first home in the
10	Northeast for Narcotics Anonymous. Their first
11	office was at our place. We ended up with a
12	hundred meetings a week and we were open
13	twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
14	My concern is a total lack of
15	public relations for people who come out of the
16	experience of chemical dependency, the criminal
17	justice system, who are successful. I saw
18	phenomenal successes. People reach tremendous
19	heights. We never hear about this.
20	If you turn on the T.V., you see
21	courts, you see cops, you see murder
22	investigations, it is really over the top over
23	the top as far as programming people's attitudes
24	towards our citizens. I saw people I saw one
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 144

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	young man who came into my facility, a homeless
3	addict who he had to be treated for T.B., ten
4	years later he was an executive director of a
5	treatment facility. We don't hear these stories.
6	I saw women who trained for jobs did phenomenal
7	things, started their own business, men in recovery
8	do the same thing. We never hear these stories.
9	Something has to be done about
10	this. We have to, in some way, empower people
11	now, it is true because we have such a negative
12	programming of our whole society. When somebody
13	does step forward, they take the chance of feeling
14	that they will lose out in their current profession
15	because they are so profiled. This is wrong. This
16	is totally wrong.
17	The other thing I saw, we had
18	many, many young people who were successful with
19	recovery and then tested positive to the AIDS
20	virus. And I saw them face their death. I saw
21	them face their death alcohol- and drug-free,
22	parenting, doing wonderful things with their lives,
23	I called them spiritual giants. Nobody knows about
24	them. This is just a total lack. If we are to be

Page 145

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	successful, people have to understand how wonderful
3	people are and what they can accomplish.
4	So, I will be the other thing
5	that I experienced at this facility, we were there
6	for twenty-five years. The property ended up being
7	worth about eight million dollars that we owned.
8	We faced the community's prejudice towards our
9	participants.
10	Now, we achieved wonderful
11	things: We had a theater; we had two public
12	assembly permits; we did all kinds of projects; we
13	even had a hit play that went to Broadway on South
14	Africa where the women did the work in the theater
15	thing. When it came to keeping our property,
16	getting technical assistance to keep this property,
17	which was so valuable for reentry, it was a place
18	where people could socialize alcohol- and drug-free
19	every weekend, could come at any time of the day or
20	night for a meeting and support. We had no support
21	in keeping this property. We eventually lost it.
22	David Dinkins had supported us, but the Julianne
23	administration sold our mortgage to a millionaire
24	developer. I fought it for years I didn't think I
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing

Page 146

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	would lose, I did lose. It was a terrible loss.
3	What I did notice is there is a
4	total lack of understanding between Upstate people
5	and Downstate people. At one point a friend of
6	mine in the field did invite DOCS down to look at
7	the property for potentially helping us, and I will
8	never forget the look on the guy's face when he
9	looked around the St. Mark's Place in the East
10	Village - I don't know if you have ever been there,
11	but there are a lot of many different people with
12	different types of clothes on - and and to him
13	this was like you know, this was not a safe
14	place, all these strange people. Actually, it's a
15	very safe place. It's as I said, our property
16	became worth eight million dollars. But the
17	Upstate people didn't really understand the culture
18	of what they were looking at, so they didn't really
19	understand what we were doing and didn't help us.
20	I would just add that the a
21	project was chosen as a national model by the
22	National F.B.I. Journal in '87. I will give this
23	to you in my report. The job training was
24	enormously successful. And again, the emphasis is,
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	how do we put forth people that are successful and
3	let our communities know the tremendous amount of
4	people that are successful?
5	Thank you.
6	MS. O'DONNELL: It's a great
7	point. And you're totally out of business now?
8	REV. HARTWELL: Huh?
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Are you totally
10	closed in your facility or?
11	REV. HARTWELL: Oh, I I did
12	in fact, I did we we wrote Attorney General
13	Spitzer to have an investigation of the situation.
14	But we were so inundated at the
15	time I I I will give you some idea of the
16	numbers. We had, over the years, at least a
17	quarter of a million people come through our
18	facility, I also helped young people. In New York
19	City we have fifty-five thousand teenagers orphaned
20	because of parental addiction and AIDS. Their
21	their parents were teenage parents and shot drugs
22	after they were born, so they don't have AIDS, they
23	don't get the attention, fifty-five thousand of
24	these kids. Now, they're hitting the jails.
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		Page 148
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	I had helped a great many of	
3	them, and I took legal custody of them. I was also	
4	raising a young son at this facility. So, we just	
5	didn't get the help we needed	
6	MS. O'DONNELL: Uh-huh.	
7	REV. HARTWELL: to keep this.	
8	But it was a wonderful project.	
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Yeah. Thank you	
10	very much.	
11	REV. HARTWELL: Okay.	
12	MS. O'DONNELL: Reverend	
13	Hartwell.	
14	And Sharon Malloy is going to	
15	follow. Or do we I'm sorry, do sir, what	
16	who is with you?	
17	MS. MALLOY: Calton Pulliam and	
18	Sharon	
19	MS. O'DONNELL: Both of you,	
20	okay. Would you both come up. And it's Sharon?	
21	MS. PULLIAM: No, I'm Calton	
22	Pulliam.	
23	MS. O'DONNELL: Katherine (sic).	
24	Okay, Pulliam from the New York State Women Justice	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

		Page 149
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	8
2	Program. Welcome.	
3	MS. PULLIAM: My name is	
4	Calton Evangelist Calton Pulliam, and I'm a	
5	member of the ARISE Just Task Force Justice Task	
6	Force. And I'm also a member of Star Bethlehem	
7	Missionary Baptist Church where Reverend Beresford	
8	Bailey is my pastor. Good evening (sic), we	
9	support your important efforts and thank you for	
10	this opportunity.	
11	Our concern is that as the New	
12	York State Commission of Sentences and Reforms	
13	(sic) makes fair and positive change. What happens	
14	if a municipality, for a political reason, brang in	
15	this federal government? An attach, which I will	
16	pass out later, is our testimony to CURE-NY about	
17	this tragic situation.	
18	We're admiring and thank CURE-NY	
19	for the intensive work you are doing and have done.	
20	We respectfully request that you add an additional	
21	task to your comprehensive plate.	
22	We submit to you that there is a	
23	dangerous experiment, a trial balloon so to speak,	
24	happening in the invisible and isolated black	

Page 150

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	community in Upstate New York. This is the radical
3	and comprehensive misapplication of the RICO Act by
4	the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the federal
5	Attorney General's Office. Only an economical
6	challenge African-American communities, this is the
7	only place that it's taken place. This is
8	happening just as the Rockefeller Drug Laws are
9	possibly being phased out, because New York voters
10	have made it clear that they are unpopular.
11	A crude travesty of justice is in
12	motion. Nobody understand these laws, including
13	the families and legal aid lawyers assigned to the
14	defendants who are without financial resources.
15	The attempt proving ground has started in Syracuse
16	and now it's in Albany. If this is successful, it
17	could be applied in other Upstate New York cities
18	where the poor communities are isolated and
19	unorganized.
20	In both cities up to eighty-five
21	percent of our young peoples together in Albany and
22	Syracuse while in prison are, after serving
23	sentences and on parole, working or in school, have
24	been recharged with thirty years to life on the
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	base that they grew up and live near each other.
3	They have been in schools together, started as
4	little boys, but now that is being used against
5	them.
6	Some, I won't I won't tell you
7	that our young peoples are innocent, all of them, I
8	won't say that. They has been they has they
9	do get in trouble. But what I am saying is are
10	they getting true justice?
11	If you go to jail and do your
12	time, how could you be recharged with that same
13	crime again?
14	Some of them are still in jail
15	doing their time, and then the federal government
16	goes into the prison and recharge them with the
17	same one that they're already serving, and this is
18	what is happening in this poor neighborhood.
19	We are not recognized as a
20	community, and what happened to us is unknown
21	except in media headlines that are of the worst
22	racial profiling in nature. We stand before you as
23	hard working citizens who has contribute to our
24	community, paid taxes as workers and own our
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	home and we own our own homes, I own my own
3	home. We are mothers and grandmothers, but we are
4	being dragged along in this same situation, because
5	if you take my child and my grandchild, and put him
6	back into prison after he after he had already
7	done his time, we are also doing that same time
8	with him unless we just turn our back on our kids.
9	Let's give let me give you a
10	picture of our community:
11	In Albany we have nine hundred
12	and fifty vacant and abandoned buildings in our
13	neighborhoods, and when I say and I say no
14	mailboxes, and when I say no mailboxes I mean to go
15	where I live, you would have to go on Central
16	Avenue to find a mailbox to drop your mail, there
17	is no mailboxes throughout a poor neighborhood.
18	No fresh food, when I say that
19	when you would have to go to Price Choppers to
20	be able to purchase fresh food.
21	No community centers, no
22	after-school programs. So, the kids are going to
23	gang together if there is nothing to do, and my
24	mother used to tell me idleness is a devil's
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 153

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	workshop. If you don't give a child something to
3	do, he will find something to do, and it's not
4	always good.
5	No art and culture. There is no
6	place that they can go and and see where the
7	art of their community, the art of their upbringing
8	is.
9	No business development. The
10	reason there is no business development, you can go
11	to school but you can't get a job because you have
12	a felony on your record. So, there is no work. So
13	they're back out in the street.
14	No information on the hope of
15	tech valley projects that's supported by taxpayers'
16	money that could be a future for our youth.
17	Limited access to communication, like the Internet,
18	yet our neighborhood we can't afford to have
19	Internet. So, when they will tell you, "you have
20	to go to the Internet to apply for a job," "you
21	have to go to the Internet to be able to to
22	receive the answer whether you have a job," we have
23	no Internet to go to.
24	And most of all, no police like

Page 154

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	in back in my time, we had the street polices
3	that walked. And you was able to go to them and
4	talk if you had a problem. Even if you had a
5	problem with in your home, you was able to go to
6	that officer, and explain to him what's taking
7	place. And he didn't turn you in, he just had it
8	looked into. We don't have that anymore.
9	Most of our young peoples has
10	been thrown out in the street. So, they're doing
11	the best they can to survive. And that survival,
12	to them, is unlawful to us. They can't find jobs
13	they have nowhere to stay. No place to eat, or
14	nobody is passing out too much free food. So, if
15	we are not feeding and housing them, they will want
16	to find a way to do that themselves.
17	And politics are confrontational
18	and territorial on the wars, councils and county
19	levels, add to the confusion and the isolation.
20	Where I live, I don't know my ward leader, most of
21	them you don't meet until election time, so you
22	have no one to complain to. Okay? And if I call
23	and complain to the police, well they'll come in,
24	in a different manner.

Page 155

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Those with real power ignore us.
3	We don't have anything to bring to the plate, so we
4	are ignored. We submit that this extreme isolation
5	and hardship has resulted in at least one member
6	and every one of our large families to be suffering
7	from illness of chemical dependency and sometime
8	AIDS. This is seen as the only way to
9	self-medicate their pain that our young peoples are
10	going through. They turn to drugs, they turn to
11	alcohol, a lot of them turn to violence because
12	they see violence in their home that's all they
13	know. And this can exalt exhaust the other
14	family members who has become caretakers. And
15	that's why we have so many young peoples in the
16	street, because the single mother cannot continue
17	to take care of the older child. She is trying to
18	take care of the younger ones. So, he is thrown
19	out. And now, he is on all of us.
20	Our youth watches our years of
21	pain and struggle, they have no role models, no
22	inspiration. The only role models they have is
23	T.V., and all they see on there is robbing and
24	killing.

Page 156

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	And we never brang up the
3	computer games. My grandson will come to my
4	be be at home and he would bring in his friends
5	and I walked in one day, and I never seen so much
6	blood in all my life. And I am saying, "Mike, what
7	is that?" "Oh, this is just a computer game,
8	Grandma."
9	Now, there is no age limit on
10	playing these games, nothing is brought up about
11	these games that they're selling our childrens.
12	Teaching our childrens how to shoot a gun, teaching
13	our childrens how to go out in the street and shoot
14	police officers. I have seen one of the games.
15	And then, we wonder where they're getting it from.
16	We are teaching it to them. We, ourselves.
17	So, they had been isolated, left
18	alone with their problems without prevention or
19	intervention, only suppression.
20	So, we are asking the panel to
21	please help investigate and support our work.
22	Thank you very much.
23	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very
24	much. We appreciated, Ms. Pulliam.

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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Is Sharon Malloy here as well.
3	MS. MALLOY: It has the same
4	testimony.
5	MS. O'DONNELL: Same testimony.
6	Okay. Thank you.
7	Bernard Fleishman from ARISE, and
8	Tom Morrison as well.
9	MR. FLEISHMAN: I have a printed
10	statement, and can I give this to someone to be
11	distributed.
12	MS. O'DONNELL: Yeah, if you
13	leave them right there, we'll take care of it
14	MR. FLEISHMAN: Thank you.
15	MS. O'DONNELL: and make
16	sure
17	MR. FLEISHMAN: Thank you.
18	MS. O'DONNELL: all the
19	commissioners get it. Thank you.
20	MR. FLEISHMAN: I am Bernard
21	Fleishman, president of the Interfaith Alliance of
22	New York State. I am also testifying as a member
23	of the ARISE Interfaith Alliance Justice Task
24	Force.

Page 158

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	ARISE is a is a faith-based
3	community organization aimed at empowering people
4	in the poor communities, particularly the inner
5	cities.
6	Please note that we are a member
7	of the Thruway Alliance, an historic undertaking of
8	six congregation-based community organizations
9	across New York State. There are one hundred
10	twenty congregations participating in all in the
11	Thruway Alliance, in the Capital Region, Syracuse,
12	Buffalo, Rochester, Niagara falls, Cortland, there
13	are included at least fifty thousand members in
14	those congregations.
15	I want to note, first of all, the
16	most important recommendation we have, and that is
17	that we endorse the Correctional Associations basic
18	recommendation that the Rockefeller Drug Laws are
19	invalid, that they are injust, they have
20	whatever usefulness they ever had, which we doubt,
21	they are useless and exorbitantly expensive in
22	taxpayer money and in human lives.
23	Now, we thank you for the
24	opportunity to comment on your important work. At

Page 159

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	the outset we would like to support your continued
3	existence as a, quote, temporary state commission
4	on sentencing. The continuation of which, would be
5	subject, of course, to legislative review. We
6	would like to include a qualifying condition for
7	this support, to include the seeking the active
8	involvement of public input as accomplished in
9	these important public hearings.
10	As stated, the subject and
11	related issues are complex and broadly
12	encompassing, quote, good sentencing policy needs
13	continual motoring, as you have noted in your
14	report monitoring, sorry.
15	Although you state that, quote,
16	the system is certainly not in the state of crisis,
17	we would like to submit to you that the people and
18	the communities they live in are in a profound
19	state of crisis. You only have to talk to people
20	in the inner city communities, talk to people who
21	have come out of prison based on drug sentencing,
22	and you realize that the enormous tragedy that is
23	occurring for thousands of people who are
24	incarcerated under on the unquestionable bases,

Page 160

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	and the enormous tragedy for thousands of families
3	who are thus affected.
4	Because of time constraints, I
5	will cite only our response and not quote your
6	report, understandably:
7	We are concerned about the
8	concept of truth in sentencing, however this might
9	be accomplished. The experience of incarceration
10	should include: The opportunity for motivation;
11	hard work and new understanding as needed for
12	learning successful life skills; motivation to
13	achieve good time and an early release is
14	important; and we see a benefit to the assistance
15	that parole can offer as a an incentive to give
16	a person the motivation to acquire those life
17	skills.
18	We would like to voice our
19	concern about one continued assertion that your
20	report puts forth. That is that alternative
21	sentencing, as an example, is possible, if there is
22	an agreement between, quote, the prosecution, the
23	judges and the defense attorneys.
24	That is a great ideal, but it's

Page 161

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	not the reality in our current system. For the
3	following reasons: The lawyers for the poor that
4	fill up our prisons are overburden with too many
5	clients, in their preparation for defense and in
6	the court setting they have no time. Many are not
7	experienced in defense work and are not acquainted
8	with the laws. The reality is that the district
9	attorneys have the influence and power. Judges, in
10	most cases, are presented with a plea bargain
11	determined by the district attorneys.
12	We have in numerous situations,
13	seen poor, uneducated, depressed and frightened
14	people take a plea bargain when they should not.
15	This imbalance from the beginning puts into
16	question the notion of the reality of the truth in
17	sentencing.
18	We support your work in all
19	aspects of progress and fairness. We support
20	alternatives to incarceration, such as drug and
21	mental health courts. We submit that these models
22	have to be based on, one, knowledge of the person,
23	two, the age, three, the communities they live in,
24	four, resources available to the court. More
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Heari

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	financial resources for all aspects of programming
3	are needed to be diverted to community courts.
4	We support higher education
5	opportunities in prisons, we support this
6	opportunity for education to be available in in
7	the alternative to incarceration drug treatment and
8	also in the community court experience. We applaud
9	all work and successful principles at improving,
10	quote, the science of crime reduction using
11	evidence-based practices, end quote, page
12	thirty-four of the report.
13	Our concern is that there is lack
14	of recognition that the citizens, the citizenry as
15	a whole, need to be involved. The person being
16	charged with the crime, the families and
17	communities need to have these concepts and terms
18	translated into language and practices that are
19	can be understandable and they can buy into.
20	The criminal justice system is
21	is now in New York States' largest employer, we
22	think this is a shame. As an example, we wonder
23	how much research has been done on voluntary
24	programs, such as the twelve-step self-help model.
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 163

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	We submit that this model as applied to drugs in
3	the near in in the Northeast since the early
4	1980s, have help reduce recidivism.
5	We support the development and
6	use of a needs assessment, including risk
7	assessment, we submit that if basic needs are met,
8	particularly in regard to treatment for chemical
9	dependency, healthcare, education, employment and
10	housing, if basic needs are met in these regards,
11	risks are minimized. We encourage this assessment,
12	the needs assessment, to be fully understood and
13	developed with the person, their family and the
14	community.
15	We support the expanded use of
16	pretrial service programs, they should include
17	pretrial drug treatment. We support the issuing
18	before release of all identification needed for
19	functioning in society, birth certificates, social
20	security cards and such. There is not enough
21	attention paid to detailed efforts to rehabilitate
22	people who leave incarceration.
23	We support the use of all manners
24	of programs include instead of incarceration for
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	parole violations that do not threaten public
3	safety.
4	We support the use of reentry
5	courts that facilitate solid assistance through
6	programming and employment. Attention to
7	employment and reentry is of utmost importance. We
8	encourage the New York State Department of Labor to
9	be involved in your Commission. We believe that
10	discrimination by employers towards people formerly
11	incarcerated need special and intense examination.
12	We would like to see employment
13	programs that assist the employer to ensure full
14	employment opportunities, we are working on state
15	service models that would lead people to solid
16	careers.
17	I'm close to done.
18	We believe the right to vote is
19	essential to participating in the community a
20	person lives in. We support all Upstate economic
21	development that is not based on prison and related
22	industries.
23	Our last comment, again I
24	reiterate, we support repeal of the Rockefeller
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 165

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Drug Laws. We believe that these shameful laws
3	have resulted in thirty-five years of failure to
4	influence positive change.
5	Thank you very much.
6	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very
7	much, Mr. Fleishman.
8	And with respect to your comment
9	about involvement in of the community I do want
10	to state that all of these transcripts will be made
11	available on our Web site. If you don't have
12	Internet access, we could try to provide you with
13	copies of those transcripts. And we already have
14	transcripts of many of the hearings that took
15	place, and lectures to the Commission earlier,
16	which are very informative as well.
17	So, thank you very much.
18	MR. FLEISHMAN: Thank you for
19	involving us in your important work.
20	MS. O'DONNELL: And Mr. Morrison
21	are you going to speak also as well, also from
22	ARISE.
23	MR. MORRISON: Yes.
24	MS. O'DONNELL: And Mr. Tom

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		Page 166
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	Morrison.	
3	MR. MORRISON: I'll tell you	
4	what, I bet either you're tired from this morning,	
5	or I guess you wouldn't have had much time for	
6	lunch, right? You probably didn't really have one.	
7	MS. O'DONNELL: But it's been so	
8	interesting, we're wide awake here, so	
9	MR. MORRISON: Well, I can either	
10	read it in six minutes and talk to you in eight	
11	minutes, I will try to be eight minutes	
12	MS. O'DONNELL: Talk to us.	
13	MR. MORRISON: you'll warn me;	
14	right?	
15	MS. O'DONNELL: Talk to us.	
16	MR. MORRISON: Okay. I'm Tom	
17	Morrison, I'm from this area here, Guilderland, and	
18	I'm a member of the ARISE Justice Task Force. I	
19	I joined these other people in doing it, because to	
20	me the whole criminal justice system needs a good	
21	look, and I'm so pleased that you're doing it, and	
22	I think you had a Reentry Task Force earlier.	
23	I'm only talking about one aspect	
24	and that's faith-based programs. So, what am I	
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Page 167

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	talking about?
3	I saw Father Young up there
4	earlier, and twenty-two years ago he started a
5	program called, REC, R.E.C., Residents Encounter
6	Christ, and I've been doing it the last twelve
7	years, in fact, I started when I was working with
8	the Labor Department. And I probably go into
9	prison seventy-five times a year, you know, either
10	from evening or days as part of a retreat. We do
11	three days retreats twice a year in the seven
12	prisons in this area, and we do monthly reunions,
13	and we do monthly Bible studies. So, we're there
14	all the time.
15	And I all I really am looking
16	for is that you recognize the value of faith-based
17	programs, you're aware of higher power programs,
18	you know, and N.A. and A.A., but these are the
19	basically faith-based programs.
20	Strangely enough, some of the
21	to me strangely enough, states like Texas and
22	Florida have dorms set aside for faith-based
23	programs, they even let one of them run a prison.
24	I'm not advocating that. All I want is, you know,

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	continuing recognition and cooperation that we have
3	been getting, and recognition that may also effect
4	sentencing and reentry.
5	We're starting a new faith-based
6	reentry program to go along with the the seven
7	prisons we're doing, we're doing it in Albany,
8	we're working with Parole, we are about to get it
9	started.
10	And what we found in terms of
11	statistics from Billy Graham's organization is that
12	the recidivism rate is probably ten percent or
13	less. In my testimony that they have upstairs, I
14	said fifteen percent, I looked over it again, it's
15	about seven years old, and it's at less than ten
16	percent.
17	Now, if you can achieve that in
18	New York State it would be wonderful. I can't tell
19	you, because I don't have the bases on the
20	statistics, you know, what caveats there are, what
21	differences there are, but we believe it does help,
22	not only in prison, because we have heard it from
23	different superintendents how it effects the prison
24	for a couple of months at a time; but we've we
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 169

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	known from our own experience, that the guys turn
3	their lives around.
4	Basically, what we ask in our
5	retreats is two things: Change, and then go forth
6	with God. And for many, many of the inmates, it's
7	the difference between hope and hopelessness, it
8	gives them a reason to take other programs and
9	improve themselves; and you know, we have seen
10	miracles. In fact, they inspire us.
11	I probably could shorten it just
12	about to that. And I will let the rest of the
13	written testimony speak for itself.
14	I just did a weekend at
15	Coxsackie, it was a best group of correction
16	officers in terms of how the weekend was treated
17	that I've ever seen in my twelve years and fifty
18	retreats.
19	And tomorrow I go into McGregor
20	with another team. We got about hundred of us just
21	in this diocese. And in two weeks, I will be in
22	Comstock/Great Meadow. And this just goes on
23	quietly all the time.
24	In addition to us, we're well

Page 170

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	aware of huge prison programs, volunteer
3	faith-based programs done by REC and done by Kyros
4	(phonetic spelling) and other faith-based programs
5	in Western New York, Northern New York, and as part
6	of my ARISE, in talking to a deacon from New York
7	City, it goes on down there.
8	So, it's very extensive, kind of
9	quiet, I think in a strange way or not a strange
10	way, but in some ways, sentencing could even be
11	affected, where you have a lower minimum sentence,
12	and the person changes their life - not just
13	faith-based, but takes all the programs - to allow
14	parole boards and facilities more flexibility,
15	once, you know, sentencing has been made, if the
16	minimum has been low.
17	We we supply all our own money
18	and everything else, we're not looking for anything
19	except continued cooperation and the idea that
20	faith-based programs can be a vital part of your
21	other programs. We're all volunteers, we go
22	through all the rigors of being volunteers.
23	And most of all, I thank you, by
24	having a hearing on on sentencing and and

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	reentry and all those aspects, that's a big step
3	ahead, you know, a lot of hope for the future.
4	And we don't want these guys
5	back, you know, we want to do our part and make
6	sure we stay out. And we have guys come back, and
7	become part of the retreat team, and they tell them
8	how it's affected them, and how they're doing in
9	their lives and it's very effective with the guys.
10	Thank you.
11	MS. O'DONNELL: Well, Mr.
12	Morrison, before you leave I I really want to
13	thank you and all the people in this room that are
14	working in the prisons and going in and and
15	bringing your human touch and your faith with you.
16	So, it's it's very moving
17	MR. MORRISON: It's my pleasure.
18	MS. O'DONNELL: for all of us.
19	MR. ALEXANDER: If I could add to
20	that comment, and certainly wanted to direct a
21	comment also to Reverend Harwell and Evangelist
22	Pulliam, and I want you to all to understand it in
23	our reentry initiatives, that's with Parole with
24	Department of Correctional Services Department of
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 172

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Criminal Justice Services, that we are very much
3	aware of the value of a faith-based initiative,
4	faith-based collaboration. And so, we are
5	including that in our plans, where as we go forward
6	with reentry, we see you as being a natural partner
7	for the things that we're trying to do it and that
8	is to make people successful once they are released
9	to to parole supervision.
10	MR. MORRISON: Thank you. And
11	our new initiative is working with Albany State
12	Parole and Albany we have one your retirees running
13	it, so he's going to keep us out of trouble.
14	MR. ALEXANDER: Very good.
15	MR. MORRISON: Thank you.
16	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you.
17	Mr. Robb Smith is next from the
18	Interfaith Impact of New York State and Mr. Smith.
19	Also, Susan Antos from the Empire
20	Justice Center, Courtney Ramirez from the Southwest
21	Community Center.
22	And I did skip over before
23	McKinley Jones. If Mr. Jones is here you could be
24	our next speaker.

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Page 173

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Okay. And I am I called out a
3	few names, so you are?
4	MS. RAMIREZ: I am Courtney
5	Ramirez.
6	MS. O'DONNELL: Okay. Thank you,
7	Courtney.
8	MS. RAMIREZ: I'm the director of
9	community services for an agency called Syracuse
10	Model Neighborhood Facility. We operate the
11	Southwest Community Center on the southwest side of
12	Syracuse. Part of our mission is to assist
13	community members facing challenges, by identifying
14	areas of need and assets, and linking them with
15	existing community resources and providing them
16	opportunities, programs and needed services.
17	In my current administrative
18	position for the past two and a half years and as a
19	front-line direct social worker and prevention
20	provider for an additional seven years, I have seen
21	there's an identified area that continues to grow
22	in need for support services in our community:
23	Individuals need assistance in the reentry and
24	transition home from incarceration.

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	In the Syracuse community there
3	are zero programs targeted at helping people come
4	home from incarceration. As the woman mentioned
5	previously, through RICO has had a significant
6	impact in our community, and there are even greater
7	numbers of individuals, particularly
8	African-American males between the ages of eighteen
9	and thirty-five, who are currently incarcerated.
10	Since July 2003, I personally had
11	the pleasure working hands-on with young men
12	ranging in age from twenty-one to thirty-five
13	returning home to our neighborhoods through
14	work-release programming and Shock parole and
15	general parole supervision. I didn't intend to get
16	into that business, at the time I was working in
17	youth development programming.
18	While I love to sit here and talk
19	about all the successes of the particular
20	interventions that we had, the reality is there are
21	a number of young man in particular who are not as
22	successful. In my work I recognize that we also
23	played a role in their failures as prevention
24	providers in the community center setting. So, as
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	those as some young individuals went off to
3	college and others went to prison, my staff and I
4	followed those who went in both directions. My
5	work with those returning home from excuse me,
6	my work with those going through the prison system
7	has been very limited however, because our agency
8	receives no formal or ongoing funding to support
9	those program efforts.
10	We were very creative in our
11	budget and program restructuring, and received
12	support from a small member item, from a
13	Assemblywoman Joan Christensen in 2005, we were
14	able to begin a very basic reentry program, which
15	we referred to as the Manhood Initiative.
16	The initiative was launched as
17	part of our family services department, designed to
18	increase youth development opportunities and
19	prevent the cycle of substance abuse, violence and
20	poverty among children of incarcerated parents,
21	specifically fathers. Again, we had to be creative
22	because no one wanted to invest in working with
23	young men coming home from these situations.
24	The program included formal

Page 176

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	workshops, individual assessments and development
3	of individualized service plans, nearly fifty
4	individuals received some level of program
5	services. To be honest, my staff consisted of me.
6	I personally have have visited over fifty
7	individuals incarcerated throughout the state
8	system.
9	We were never I was never
10	recognized as part of a formal program, so I could
11	tell you about the real experience of visiting an
12	inmate in prison, waiting in the lines, wading
13	through the whole process. That's a whole another
14	issue that needs to be addressed and how
15	families the process that families go through.
16	But the primary goal of the
17	initiative has always been the successful
18	completion of parole and the maintenance of
19	permanent employment at a living wage. Specific
20	client activities have included outreach case
21	management, employment services, referrals to our
22	other center-based services; for example,
23	substance-abuse treatment, family services and
24	mental health counseling, educational and

Page 177

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	vocational training, job placement and coaching.
3	In my community the cycle of
4	poverty is glaringly apparent. And with that
5	poverty, issues like drug addiction, incarceration,
6	unemployment, fatherless children, violence and
7	criminal behavior have all become intertwined.
8	Without addressing education, job training and the
9	development of basic communication skills,
10	individuals regularly fall back on what they know.
11	The national recidivism rates show that two-thirds
12	of all of released prisoners will be reincarcerated
13	within three years and the reality for males in a
14	Syracuse community is quite similar.
15	Being aware of this from the
16	start however, is key in developing effective
17	initiatives. Effective programming will rarely
18	result in high rates of initial success, because so
19	many of the target individuals lack the basic
20	foundation upon which to build a more positive
21	lifestyle.
22	We have recognized that
23	oftentimes it takes an individual several attempts,
24	and several small achievements and failures, before
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	he learns to make necessary behavioral changes.
3	Our staffs have used nontraditional approaches to
4	problem solving, which have included utilizing a
5	parallel family systems approach. This stretches
6	beyond the boundaries and limits of conventional
7	programming and intervention methods, by
8	encouraging relationship building between staff and
9	client that resemble family roles, like
10	parent-child relationships and sibling to sibling.
11	We would like to say that we boldly go where no man
12	has gone before, directly to the hood, in an effort
13	to assist in development of healthy young man, who
14	are ultimately more productive and responsible
15	citizens.
16	And I would be lying to you today
17	if I sit before you and talked about the
18	significant numbers of success stories. Far too
19	many individuals have returned to prison on
20	technical violations, too many returned to a world
21	of selling drugs when forced to support their
22	families on minimum wage salaries. Too many found
23	it impossible to handle the challenges of returning
24	home without succumbing to drugs and alcohol. And
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 179

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	from most beginning the transitional process upon
3	their release was way too late.
4	Today I am talking to you with an
5	idea. An idea that definitely comes with its costs
6	but I believe when you look at the possible
7	benefits, you will find it well worth the expense.
8	And in reality when you consider the costs
9	associated with reincarceration what I'm proposing
10	to you is definitely more cost effective.
11	In working with individuals
12	returning home, we have determined that the
13	following are key barriers to a person's success:
14	They face mental health issues. Family issues
15	including child support; a ridiculous issue, the
16	child support, even when we have been able to find
17	people employment we have individuals who are
18	looking at twenty thousand dollars in arrears after
19	coming home from a four-year sentence. Chronic
20	health problems, substance abuse, relationship
21	management, safety issues, and a lack of education
22	and formal training are also problems these
23	individuals face.
24	More than simple parole

Page 180

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	supervision, individuals need opportunities to
3	develop personal and social skills to make it
4	possible to overcome their barriers. They need
5	opportunities to develop both internal and external
6	assets. They need to understand and learn to
7	develop a positive new positive sense of values,
8	social competencies and a positive identity. In.
9	My opinion, what's needed in this
10	new plan of action is that prisons can no longer be
11	simply about punishment. When we use the phrase
12	rehabilitation, we must really mean it, and
13	assisting individuals in returning home is
14	essential to the true word rehabilitation. Each
15	prison in the state system needs to partner with
16	community-based agencies, like the one that I
17	represent. In speaking to individuals who return
18	back to our neighborhoods, there is much talk about
19	programming that happens in the Downstate area.
20	All of the transitional and reentry programs that's
21	available to folks who are returning back to New
22	York City. There are no such programs in our
23	community, and few in other areas of the state.
24	We need to recognize however,

Page 181

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	that when you support these types of programmings,
3	you do not necessarily have to go to the
4	traditional agencies. Community agencies, like the
5	one that I represent, play a central role. Young
6	men and women, when they return home from
7	incarceration, return just there, home. Agencies
8	like ours, community centers, neighborhood-based
9	organizations, oftentimes are the home to these
10	young people. We accept them for who they are and
11	from where they are at.
12	It's important that we're able to
13	gain entrance into facilities to develop a
14	relationship and excuse me, and a process, up to
15	a year and a half before they're scheduled to come
16	home. We need to develop relationships with their
17	parole officers. We need to be able to look at and
18	assess the types of opportunities that they have
19	available, and the types of things that they need.
20	We hope that when we look at the types of programs
21	that you would like to support in the future, you
22	would look at agencies like ours that are
23	traditionally not even considered in the
24	competitive field for funding, because we may not

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	have the professional grant writers that make
3	the the proposals all that appealing, but we
4	definitely have the true passion of the staff that
5	know that we definitely want to take advantage of
6	the assets and the strengths that these individuals
7	bring home.
8	Thank you.
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very
10	much, Ms. Ramirez, we appreciate it.
11	MR. ALEXANDER: Ms. Ramirez, let
12	me just make a brief comment
13	MS. RAMIREZ: Uh-huh.
14	MR. ALEXANDER: is that what
15	you have said here basically is the outline for our
16	state reentry project between the different
17	agencies that are represented here today. One of
18	the issues in terms of Upstate resources versus
19	Downstate, and we're looking very desperately for
20	those resources.
21	One of the problems we have is to
22	identifying them, and so that if you have some
23	information about your organization or others, we
24	would be more than happy to receive them, and more
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 183

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	than happy to consider it in our network of
3	services that we're providing people once they are
4	released.
5	Let me say one last thing, is
6	that we all agree, Corrections, Paroles, D.C.J.S.
7	and others that we are starting our reentry process
8	the day that that person becomes incarcerated, not
9	six months before they get out. And so, those are
10	some of the changes that we are making
11	systematically to help to realize some of those
12	things that you have outlined today.
13	MS. RAMIREZ: Perfect. Thank
14	you.
15	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very
16	much.
17	Robb Smith from the Interfaith
18	Impact of Program of New York State. Mr. Smith?
19	MR. SMITH: Good afternoon.
20	MS. O'DONNELL: Good afternoon.
21	MR. SMITH: And thank you for
22	this opportunity to to to speak to these
23	issues. The issue that I am really concerned about
24	right now is one we have had on our plate for
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	literally decades, and that is the injustice of the
3	very harsh Rockefeller Drug Laws.
4	It is our observation, and it is
5	the observation of of the the many ministers
6	throughout this state, and rabbis throughout the
7	state, who have to deal with families who have been
8	impacted by these laws.
9	It's not that we don't recognize
10	the seriousness of the problems that drug addiction
11	can create; it's that we don't believe that
12	incarceration is the way to treat a mental health
13	problem. And we would like to see the drug laws
14	changed substantially, because we believe that the
15	penalties are disproportionate to the crime.
16	And our concern is that when that
17	happens, people lose hope. And when people lose
18	hope, we have people who are no longer willing to
19	say, "yes, I have a stake in society." And then,
20	we have to deal with kids who are getting being
21	incarcerated again and again, and it starts out
22	with just a little bit of time, but it very rapidly
23	moves up, and after a while, they're on their track
24	to being lifetime professional prisoners. And we
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

		Page 185
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	don't want that.	
3	I have seen these kids. I have	
4	seen them when I participated in and I'm not	
5	reading from my testimony, which is will be put	
6	in the record here, I just want to you know,	
7	because I I think this is this is something	
8	that we we just need to really look at the	
9	the human impact here.	
10	I have seen kids when I was	
11	when I was participating in the District Attorney's	
12	Community Accountability Board here in Albany.	
13	These kids are many of them are utterly	
14	hopeless, fifteen- and sixteen-year-old kids	
15	without hope, and that's a terrible thing.	
16	They're they're being raised	
17	by grandparents because their parents are	
18	incarcerated or drug addicted. The people coming	
19	out of prison and they're still addicted. We	
20	need to treat this as a public health crisis, and	
21	do something about it so that we don't destroy	
22	communities. There are too many communities in	
23	this state that are being literally destroyed by	
24	incarcerating too many people. We reach a tipping	
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	point, and it becomes highly dysfunctional and
3	destructive, and we've got to stop that.
4	This has been going on for a long
5	time, and we are paying that penalty right here on
6	the streets of Albany and in New York City and in
7	every other major metropolitan area.
8	This is a matter of justice, and
9	it's a matter of reason. I would say it's also a
10	matter of compassion for the families that are
11	affected by all of these persons being incarcerated
12	for long periods of time for crimes that in other
13	countries, the same crime has a relatively reduced
14	sentence.
15	I point to the Canadian system,
16	for example. Canada's much larger than America,
17	and than than New York State is, in terms of
18	population, and yet we have three times the prison
19	population. That has largely to do with our
20	with our our dysfunctional New York State
21	Rockefeller Drug Laws. And I would suggest that we
22	need a whole new approach to this. So, let's
23	let's just get away from from these unjust long,
24	long sentences, and get back to to the
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 187

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	fundamental purpose of justice, which is to have
3	healthy communities.
4	And we need to put the focus on
5	reintegrating people into communities, and
6	providing assistance, rather than and and
7	that maybe a broad range of assistance programs,
8	rather than than to rely on incarceration, which
9	clearly is not working.
10	So, I offer that on behalf of the
11	members of Interfaith Impact as a as a moral and
12	ethical benchmark.
13	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very
14	much.
15	MR. SMITH: Thank you.
16	MS. O'DONNELL: We appreciate it.
17	And District Attorney Robert
18	Carney have come earlier to be substituted for one
19	of our earlier witnesses who was not able to
20	attend. D.A. Carney has been a D.A. for a number
21	of years, and is the distinguished district
22	attorney from Schenectady County.
23	Welcome.
24	MR. CARNEY: Thank you very much,

Page 188

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Madam Chair, and members of the panel. I I I
3	have my testimony. I'm going to try to summarize
4	it and fly through it if I can.
5	I became D.A. in Schenectady
6	in in 1990. That was coincidentally the first
7	year that we saw crack cocaine on the streets of
8	Schenectady, we found it in the pocket of a young
9	man from Bronx who came to Schenectady to deal
10	drugs, and he was targeted for robbery and executed
11	in a Vale in Vale Cemetery in Schenectady, and
12	that that changed things dramatically in the
13	city of Schenectady.
14	And nothing shows that more than
15	the homicide statistic. My seventeen-plus years as
16	D.A., I have now convicted seventy-one people of
17	the crime of murder, fifty-five percent of those
18	cases were drug related, either directly or
19	indirectly. Contrast that to the record in the
20	twenty-six years before me, going back through
21	three D.A.s, there were two people convicted of
22	homicide in those twenty-six years. So, the
23	the the connection between violence and
24	drugs are are clearly established.

Page 189

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	And when we got crack on our
3	streets of Schenectady, that started the the
4	crime trends upward from 1990 to 1993, they spiked
5	to record levels. In fact, we have never been as
6	high as we were in 1993. That year we had a major
7	commitment of state police resources, undercover
8	teams, three or four of them in the in the
9	streets all summer, we did a hundred and ten sealed
10	indictments, which were executed in November of
11	1993. Ultimately, we prosecuted a hundred and five
12	of those people, one was acquitted, everybody else
13	was convicted; other than one person that went
14	got probation, everybody went to prison on the
15	average of three point four to eight point seven
16	years. That was the beginning of the turnaround,
17	1994. We had ten years in a row of declining crime
18	rates, which we can attribute to nothing other than
19	that major operation.
20	And let me tell you, I rode the
21	streets of Schenectady with a Superintendent Tom
22	Constantine at the time of the state police and our
23	police commissioner was Charlie Mills that day, and
24	people were coming out on the street applauding us
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		Page 190
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	as we were taking drug dealers. And those are the	
3	people impacted by the violence of of drug	
4	crime. And the most amazing statistics from that,	
5	in my seventeen years as a D.A., the only year that	
6	we had not one homicide was 1994, the year that we	
7	processed and incapacitated those hundred and four	
8	drug dealers.	
9	Now, look at, on my outline, I	
10	talk about the arguments I was president of the	
11	D.A. Association of 2000 when this debate first	
12	started heated you you know all the	
13	arguments, you have heard them, but you know, that	
14	the proponents of of reform say prosecutors	
15	wield too much power, and prisons are filled with	
16	low-level nonviolent drug dealers. And we say that	
17	unfettered judicial discretion was a disaster	
18	historically, and and that these are the best	
19	tools for us to respond to violence that is	
20	plaguing our community, and ultimately fashion the	
21	best treatment programs, because the best treatment	
22	programs are coerced and they require the they	
23	require the the possibility, the risk of	
24	a of a serious sentence in order to convince	

Page 191

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	people to do the very difficult task that they need
3	to do to get their lives together, which is go
4	through a meaningful drug treatment. The best ones
5	are DTAP and Road to Recovery and those models.
6	I applaud you for for
7	identifying and finding common ground between these
8	two irreconcilable views, the D.A.'s point of view
9	and the reformer's point of view. And I endorse
10	what you've said in your preliminary report,
11	there's absolutely no reason not to give allow
12	all when all parties agree to to allow drug
13	treatment, which would occur then with a sense of
14	probation, even if it was otherwise, under current
15	law, mandated to be a prison sentence. You know,
16	today we have in my county, we have a drug
17	court, we have a hundred felons in drug court, we
18	have Road to Recovery we have twenty to twenty-five
19	people, we do the extended Willard model. It's no
20	question that if we did crack down the day not
21	everybody would go to prison, that thirty to forty
22	percent of people that were drug dealers that we
23	identified as users who were dealing to abet their
24	own habit would go into a treatment program that we
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 192

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	did not have in 1993. I think that would be more
3	effective.
4	A specific proposal I would
5	recommend to you for Willard is there is a bar to
6	Willard, if somebody has a prior drug sale
7	conviction a B B drug sale, there is no reason
8	to equate that, in this context, to the conviction
9	of a violent crime, which would otherwise preclude
10	you from going to Willard.
11	We do not discriminate against
12	dealers because they have dealt if, in fact, we
13	believe they are dealing to abet their own habit,
14	they should be able to access Willard as well as
15	everybody else.
16	And it is just it is just
17	wrong and dangerous to believe that everybody who
18	is however a drug dealer is also a drug user.
19	Clearly that's not the case. When I you know,
20	and and we have to realize the things have
21	changed, as this debate has raged, you know, we
22	we did away with life sentences, drug treatment has
23	proliferated, judicial attitudes have changed,
24	sentences are more lenient now, both the front and
	Associated Penorters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing

Page 193

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	the back-end of sentences have have been
3	reduced. And as this debate has going on over the
4	last ten years, forty-one percent reduction in the
5	state prison population of drug offenders.
6	And even though the last two
7	years people have come in, in record in in
8	in some in some higher numbers, it's ticked up
9	that's because of Operation Impact, and those
10	programs, which not surprisingly, are looking to
11	address violence in our inner cities, so we're
12	targeting drug offenders. But the reality is, they
13	may be coming in, in greater numbers, but they're
14	going out in greater numbers, because they're
15	staying far shorter, because of the reductions in
16	sentences that have already have already taken
17	place.
18	Just two days ago, when I was
19	preparing for my testimony, we had a case that we
20	handled with a twenty-seven year old who we
21	captured on a surveillance camera, a public
22	surveillance camera, he, in over a three-hour
23	period did twelve drug deals. Now, he looked
24	businesslike and nonviolent, and at the end of the
	A second to the second

Page 194

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	three hours he was arrested and found in possession
3	of a quantity of drugs and money. But while he was
4	out on bail, six months later, we believe he
5	committed a murder, and and he also was involved
6	in a shooting where he was targeted for for a
7	home invasion, because he had slashed somebody
8	earlier, he now stands indicted two separate
9	violent crime. You wouldn't know that by looking
10	at the street-level dealer just plying his wares
11	but it's just another example of the intertwining
12	between violence and crack cocaine trafficking.
13	And we see it every day.
14	And as a as it this guy,
15	I'm talking about the drug case because he pled
16	guilty two days ago. And the judge gave him a cap
17	of seven years, that's still a significant
18	sentence, but contrast that to a case that we had
19	ten years ago, exact same judge, had somebody very
20	similarly situated who was suspected of a murder,
21	he was subsequently indicted and convicted of a
22	murder in another county, but he was indicted for
23	drug dealing first in our county, he went to a
24	trial, and it with a series of drug deals, the same
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing

Page 195

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	judge after trial gave him a sentence of forty-one
3	to two and two-thirds to hundred and
4	twenty-five, which was, by operation of law, and
5	the cap reduced it to fifteen to thirty. Same
6	judge ten years later, very similarly situated
7	person, seven years versus fifteen to thirty years.
8	Attitudes have changed, sentences have changed.
9	My concluding point is just this,
10	that mandatory minimums for drug dealers and
11	predicate felons are vital tools for us to protect
12	our communities from violence and unintended but
13	real consequence of weakening the laws, is also
14	weakening the most effective treatment programs,
15	and finally from me personally, I would not oppose
16	the abolition of mandatory minimums for first-time
17	drug offenders charged only with simple possession
18	and not drug sale or possession within intent to
19	sell, I think that reflects the practice everywhere
20	in the state, but at the same time I would very
21	much like to see a workable Drug Kingpin Bill, not
22	one that, you know, requires prosecutors to prove
23	two fifty-thousand-dollar transactions within one
24	year, which would be unprosecutable, unworkable,
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	and at the same time, I would like to see some
3	some thought of something like the federal law,
4	where if if you use or or appears to be a
5	deadly weapon in connection with a drug enterprise,
6	and then you are charged with a drug crime as a
7	result of that, that you would faced face
8	enhanced penalties. That's it.
9	MS. O'DONNELL: Okay. Thank you
10	very much for taking time from your busy schedule
11	to be with us today.
12	MR. CARNEY: My pleasure. Thank
13	you.
14	MS. O'DONNELL: Susan Antos from
15	the Empire Justice Center.
16	Welcome, Ms. Antos.
17	MS. ANTOS: Thank you. Good
18	afternoon.
19	Thank you for holding these
20	hearings. I'm Susan Antos from the Empire Justice
21	Center, we're a support center for legal aid and
22	legal services offices, my work is on the civil
23	side, so our responses today are going to focused
24	on your reentry the reentry section of your
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	report, my organization focuses on a wide variety
3	of legal issues, disability law, consumer law, my
4	specialty is public benefits/child support. In our
5	Rochester office, we have our employment law
6	attorney represents former felons who, although
7	otherwise qualified, have been refused employment
8	by private employers in violation of Correction Law
9	750.
10	I want to commend you for your
11	recommendations on public assistance and Medicaid
12	in this report, we strongly support your
13	recommendation that there be a prerelease
14	determination of eligibility. As you know, the
15	Social Services Law, the statute requires a
16	forty-five-day waiting period for single
17	individuals who apply for public assistance, which
18	means that if applications are not taken before
19	release, there is a period of forty-five days in
20	which a person was without assistance.
21	I have attached to my testimony
22	an administrative directive that was issued in
23	1993, in which our then New York State Department
24	of Social Services, now the Office of Temporary and
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Disability Assistance, recommended that district's
3	accept public assistance applications forty-five
4	days before release.
5	What happened in the intervening
6	time however, was that O.T.D.A., although this is
7	perfectly legally permissible, said it was a
8	recommendation not a requirement, and and we
9	would like to see you recommend that, in fact, what
10	was in this policy document be either a regulation
11	or an amendment to the Social Services Law, to
12	require that such applications be accepted.
13	Your report also recommends that
14	proper identification be provided systemwide, and
15	we strongly support that as well. We note, and we
16	see all the time, that when prisons fail to provide
17	prisoners with birth certificates and social
18	security cards upon release, these the lack of
19	these documents effectively prevents people from
20	receiving public benefits.
21	The primary focus of my testimony
22	today however, is going to be a matter that I don't
23	believe was addressed in your report and I would
24	strongly urge you, in your final report, to include
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	it; it was alluded to by the woman who spoke before
3	me from Onondaga County, the the problem of
4	overwhelming child support arrears from release
5	when someone is released from prison. This is, in
6	fact, a civil sanction that is imposed on people
7	leaving prison, because of the way the law is
8	interpreted in New York State.
9	The New York courts have taken
10	the position - and again this is case law this is
11	not in statute, but it's been on Court of Appeals
12	so I think there needs to be a statutory change -
13	that support orders may not be modified downward
14	while a person is incarcerated, because the current
15	financial situation of that person is solely the
16	result of their wrongful conduct. That's what the
17	Court of Appeals says.
18	So, incarcerated parents are not
19	permitted under New York State law at the current
20	time to downwardly modify their child support
21	orders. What happens then, when they are released,
22	because we have had policy to collect child support
23	from people who have the ability to pay, but don't,
24	we have very strong laws in this state on

Page 199

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	garnishing wages, and if you owe arrears sixty-five
3	percent of your take-home pay or I'm sorry, of
4	your gross income, can be taken to pay for child
5	support arrears. More than four months of of
6	arrears will result in a revocation of your
7	driver's license. If you train to be a barber in
8	person, you won't get a professional license if you
9	have child support arrears of more than four
10	months.
11	So, this rule, which is called
12	the no-justification rule is shared by a number of
13	other states, and is being reexamined by a number
14	of other states. And I think that we, New York,
15	should also reexamine that state (sic). Because
16	what's happening is that people leave prison and
17	are driven into the underground economy because
18	they cannot survive on their W-two paychecks.
19	Let me just give you an example
20	of a few states that have reexamined their policies
21	and developed other policies:
22	In Oregon there is the
23	case-by-case evaluation of the act that resulted in
24	incarceration when a downward modification petition

Page 201

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	is filed. Ohio and Idaho look as to whether or not
3	the person, in fact, has assets that could satisfy
4	an arrears obligation. Pennsylvania uses a
5	best-interest-of-the child test. New Mexico,
6	Missouri, Colorado use a best-interest-of-the-child
7	test.
8	New Jersey uses an interesting
9	procedure, which I would strongly recommend to this
10	Commission, when someone files a modification
11	petition upon incarceration, the modification
12	petition is transferred to an inactive calendar,
13	upon release the court will make a determination as
14	to a fair and realistic amount of arrears, based on
15	the person's ability to pay; that is also in the
16	best interest of the child. The other the other
17	way that arrears can be reduced, is in the area of
18	arrears owe to the state.
19	What many people don't realize is
20	that when a child is on public assistance, the
21	child support that child is entitled to actually is
22	assigned to the state, so so, that if a child is
23	on public assistance while the parent is
24	incarcerated, and this is for either the what
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	had been the custodial parent or the absent parent
3	these arrears belong to the state. These state
4	arrears have have recently been the subject of
5	many innovative policies in terms of arrears
6	reduction, this is because when arrears are owed to
7	an individual, federal law prohibits the state from
8	reducing those arrears. However, when the arrears
9	are owed to the state, the state can enter into a
10	number of innovative programs for arrears
11	reduction.
12	For example, in Michigan and
13	Illinois, the state will dismiss seventy-five
14	percent of arrears owed to the state, if the
15	obligors pays on the arrears owed to the parent,
16	and makes up a balance of twenty-five percent owed
17	to the state. In Illinois, once a regular payment
18	plan is complied with, the arrears to the state are
19	also forgiven.
20	Low-income obligors who are
21	struggling with arrears may never be able to
22	satisfy them. I have a client right now who who
23	is making, based on his income, a realistic payment
24	of thirty-five dollars a month, he is disabled and
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 203

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	he is on disability income, but because his order
3	was reduced to judgment, nine percent interest
4	accrues on his arrears, and so his balance
5	increases every month, his children are grown now,
6	he is paying on arrears owe to the state. He will
7	never ever get out of debt.
8	Enforcing orders without
9	distinguishing between the unwillingness and
10	inability to pay is going to result in less support
11	paid overall.
12	The Empire Justice Center urges
13	the Sentencing Commission to recommend the
14	necessary changes in law and policy that would set
15	up realistic payment plans upon release from
16	incarceration, that would allow people to take a
17	meaningful role in the world of work upon their
18	release. Thank you.
19	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very
20	much, Ms. Antos.
21	Our next speaker is Theodore
22	Jackson, Mr. Jackson.
23	Oh, he's not here. Sorry.
24	Lorraine Barde and after Ms.

Page 204

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Barde, Yusef Williams, if you want to if you are
3	here and want to come down and take a seat.
4	Welcome, Ms. Barde.
5	MS. BARDE: Thank you. My name
6	is Lorraine Barde, and I am here as a parent of a
7	prisoner, an organization no parent ever wants to
8	belong to, the issue I want to address affects
9	reentry, it it affects our crime rates.
10	I would like you to imagine that
11	you are sixteen years old, and maybe even
12	seventeen, and the doctor tells you you that you
13	have cancer, and your parents aren't there, and
14	before you can see your parents or talk to your
15	parents, you have to make the first important
16	decision in your treatment, and you will not
17	like I said, you will not be able to talk with
18	them. You will be able to talk to them later, but
19	not privately, not in a confidential setting. And
20	when you meet with your doctor to discuss the
21	course of action for your disease, you will not
22	your parents will not be able to be there with you.
23	You don't know where to start,
24	your cancer may be basal cell carcinoma, relatively
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	minor; it may be neuroblastoma; a brain tumor but
3	is it a glioma or some other cancer that is
4	metastasized; is it stage I stage II, which is
5	better? You're thrown into a world of medical
6	jargon and procedures that you know nothing about,
7	you don't even know what questions to ask, you have
8	no experience with this.
9	Now, imagine that you have to
10	make the choice of your treatment just from the
11	options you are given as to how to proceed. Your
12	parents can advise, but they cannot make they
13	cannot dictate your decision.
14	I don't imagine that there is
15	anybody here who would believe that a decision of
16	such magnitude, with such serious life-altering
17	consequences, should be left should be made by a
18	sixteen year old, especially under such conditions.
19	Yet that is the exactly the type
20	of situations sixteen and seventeen year old's face
21	in our criminal justice system, because New York is
22	one of only three states in the nation that have
23	eighteen as or excuse me, sixteen as the age of
24	majority for the justice system. This means they
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 206

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	can be taken into custody and interrogated by
3	police without parents being even notified that
4	they are in custody. If they're advised of their
5	rights at all, they are asked to give up a very
6	important right, that of having any attorney
7	present while they are being questioned.
8	Keep in mind they cannot even
9	sign a simple contract at this age. If they cannot
10	make bail, they have no means of having
11	confidential discussions with their parents, and
12	their parents will not be allowed to be there when
13	they talk with their attorney. And in the end, as
14	I said, it's the sixteen or seventeen year old, who
15	is making that choice.
16	Some of you excuse me, some of
17	you may say, but the justice system is different;
18	if that sixteen year old had done nothing wrong he
19	or she will have nothing to worry about, and a
20	sixteen year should know right for wrong, and I
21	agree with that.
22	However, many of those accused
23	and arrested are are, in fact, truly innocent of
24	any wrongdoing, and it can happen to anyone.

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

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Page 207

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Others may be guilty as charged. And then, there
3	are those who may be guilty of some wrongdoing, but
4	not guilty of all they are charged with, they may
5	be overindicted, with due respect to our district
6	attorneys. But they are and they are ones who
7	have the hardest time making the decisions. How do
8	you take responsibility for something you did, but
9	not everything for would you are accused.
10	And remember, they are all
11	innocent until proven guilty.
12	Youth with no prior experience in
13	the criminal justice system are at a further
14	disadvantage, because being unfamiliar besides
15	being unfamiliar with the jargon and procedures.
16	In counties with an integrated court system, and
17	I'm not extremely clear on this, but my
18	understanding is the family court judge would then
19	have input if they are arrested as adults.
20	Ironically, for those I'm sorry, with with no
21	criminal record there is no involvement of the
22	family court.
23	I agree, as I said, that
24	teenagers should know right from wrong, but science

		Page 208
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	has now shown what every parent of any teenager	
3	have known for centuries, and that is that they do	
4	not think the same way that adults do. They're	
5	more impulsive, and they don't think long-term.	
6	Their brains are still developing, just as the rest	
7	of their bodies are. The U.S. Supreme Court	
8	recognized the validity validity of this	
9	evidence, and and in 2005, ruled that those	
10	under eighteen can no longer be given the death	
11	penalty, it is cruel and unusual punishment. It	
12	found that a minor's, quote, culpability or	
13	blameworthiness is diminished to a substantial	
14	degree, by reason of youth and immaturity.	
15	In New York, we recognize that	
16	those under eighteen do not have the maturity to	
17	make long-range decisions, that they lack the	
18	judgment the adult that adults have. We do not	
19	allow them to vote, sign contracts, buy tobacco	
20	products, marry, or enlist in military. New York	
21	recently changed its Motor Vehicle Laws regarding	
22	driver's licenses to limit the driving privileges	
23	of sixteen and seventeen years olds. Anyone over	
24	twenty-one having sex with a sixteen year old can	
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	be charged with statutory rape or criminal sexual
3	misconduct, which I believe are felonies, subject
4	up to four years in prison because a sixteen year
5	old cannot consent to sex.
6	Even after a sixteen year old is
7	sentenced and charged or charged and sentenced
8	as an adult and is in adult prison, they cannot buy
9	tobacco products. Supposedly, they can understand
10	and weigh the consequences of all the intricacies
11	of the law and the justice system, but they are too
12	young to weigh the consequences of smoking.
13	Once in prison adult prisons,
14	minors are at higher risk for suicide than in the
15	juvenile facilities. They do not have the same
16	level of access to mental health services or
17	educational services, despite the fact that the
18	higher the level of education attained, the lower
19	the recidivism rate, New York discontinued TAP
20	awards and college courses for adult inmates in
21	1990s, which is a whole another issue that should
22	be addressed.
23	Many of the sixteen and seventeen
24	year olds have never been employed, and once out of
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	prison, they will now have a criminal record that
3	will follow them the rest of their lives, making it
4	even more difficult to find employment.
5	In that 2005 Supreme Court
6	decision, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote, "from a
7	moral standpoint, it would be misguided to equate
8	the failings of a minor with those of an adult, for
9	a greater possibility exists that a minor's
10	character deficiencies will be reformed." Most
11	Americans agree for according to a nationwide Zogby
12	Poll of this year, eighty-nine percent of Americans
13	believe that rehabilitative services and treatments
14	for our youth can help prevent future crime, and
15	studies bear this out.
16	In the New York Metropolitan Area
17	that straddles the New York/New Jersey line teens
18	from similar backgrounds who committed similar
19	crimes were studied and followed. Those sentenced
20	as adults had higher recidivism rates. I think it
21	was forty-nine percent and reoffended sooner and
22	more violently, than those sentenced under the
23	juvenile courts where the recidivism rate in this
24	study was about thirty-seven percent. So, we're
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 211

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	not talking about making the society safer by
3	sentencing them us adults.
4	We should not be sending our
5	youth directly to adult courts. A family court
6	judge, a neutral party with experience with
7	adolescents, hopefully, should make the
8	determination if a case should be transferred to
9	adult courts. It should not be done by statute,
10	which fails to look at the individual, nor by a
11	prosecutor, whose very role is not one of
12	neutrality.
13	Also the length of sentence for
15	Also the length of sentence for
13	those under eighteen should be less than that of
	u u u u u u u u u u u u u u u u u u u
14	those under eighteen should be less than that of
14 15	those under eighteen should be less than that of given to adults for the same crimes. For for
14 15 16	those under eighteen should be less than that of given to adults for the same crimes. For for justice to be truly served, consequences must be
14 15 16 17	those under eighteen should be less than that of given to adults for the same crimes. For for justice to be truly served, consequences must be commensurate with the level of culpability of the
14 15 16 17 18	those under eighteen should be less than that of given to adults for the same crimes. For for justice to be truly served, consequences must be commensurate with the level of culpability of the defendant and the Supreme Court has said that a
14 15 16 17 18 19	those under eighteen should be less than that of given to adults for the same crimes. For for justice to be truly served, consequences must be commensurate with the level of culpability of the defendant and the Supreme Court has said that a person's culpability is great diminished greatly
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	those under eighteen should be less than that of given to adults for the same crimes. For for justice to be truly served, consequences must be commensurate with the level of culpability of the defendant and the Supreme Court has said that a person's culpability is great diminished greatly by reason of youth and immaturity. And I would add
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	those under eighteen should be less than that of given to adults for the same crimes. For for justice to be truly served, consequences must be commensurate with the level of culpability of the defendant and the Supreme Court has said that a person's culpability is great diminished greatly by reason of youth and immaturity. And I would add mental health issues.
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 	those under eighteen should be less than that of given to adults for the same crimes. For for justice to be truly served, consequences must be commensurate with the level of culpability of the defendant and the Supreme Court has said that a person's culpability is great diminished greatly by reason of youth and immaturity. And I would add mental health issues. And mental health courts again

1		Page 212
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	Over half of minors in custody	
3	suffer from some sort of mental health problem,	
4	which further compromises their ability to think	
5	clearly. I have included some fact sheets with my	
6	written testimony, as well as a final report	
7	written by the Connecticut Juvenile Jurisdiction	
8	Planning and Implementation Implementation	
9	committee. Connecticut is in the process of	
10	changing its age of majority back to eighteen.	
11	Adolescents are not known for	
12	thinking long-term, however adults, especially	
13	given the time to study an issue, should look	
14	think long-term. You have that opportunity. And	
15	please take that opportunity, and change the age of	
16	New York's majority back to eighteen.	
17	Thank you very much.	
18	MS. O'DONNELL: Thank you very	
19	much, Ms. Barde. I appreciate it.	
20	Yusef Williams and Tamar	
21	Kraft-Stollar, Patricia Durham.	
22	Oh, I'm sorry. Please have a	
23	seat.	
24	And you're Mr. Williams?	

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.
3	MS. O'DONNELL: Okay. And if we
4	do have Patricia Durham, if you want to come down,
5	and you will be next.
6	Okay, Mr. Williams, welcome.
7	MR. WILLIAMS: Welcome thank
8	you.
9	Imagine a child left alone to
10	defend for himself: No one shows him how to live,
11	how to love; he has got no sense of direction, no
12	guidance from a positive caring adult. All he sees
13	is poverty, pain, perpetual chaos. What he learns
14	is how to distrust, be angry and fend for himself.
15	He smokes more than he can eat, because that's what
16	he sees in those around him. He yells, fights more
17	than he cries, because that's how he has learned to
18	deal when the hurt. His classroom is the streets
19	where he learns what he needs to survive, money
20	what matters most. Without it, you have nothing,
21	no power, no control, not even over your own life.
22	He sees that a mother is who gives gives you
23	life, not necessarily one who loves you. He wishes
24	and prays that some day she will love him even half
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 214

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	as much as she loves getting high. He never felt
3	angry for what he is missing, because to him this
4	is all it is, all there ever will be. Hope for
5	what? Maybe an end to all this. What's the point
6	of living anyway when you don't even care if you
7	die?
8	A child grows and his smiling
9	face, now with the frustration of life. He never
10	laughs, he doesn't even remember how. What the
11	hell is so funny anyway? The the situation is
12	real as real as it gets. He is not scared. Never
13	that scared of what? Dying? That's the only thing
14	he is certain of.
15	You really don't have to imagine
16	anymore. That's my story. Let me introduce
17	myself. My name is Yusef Williams, and I live in
18	Syracuse, New York. And I am someone who has
19	personally been affected by the Rockefeller Drug
20	Laws, and want to talk to you today about that
21	experience.
22	Eight years ago, I was arrested
23	on a drug conspiracy charge based on a telephone
24	conversation with my uncle. I was never caught
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing

		Page 215
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	with any drugs in my possession. Because I was	
3	young, listened to my lawyer, I have already gone	
4	to trial and plead guilty to a lesser charge of	
5	criminal possession of a controlled substance in	
6	the second degree, an A-two felony. At the time I	
7	had no prior felony convictions and believed that	
8	this was the option was was a good one.	
9	While I was awaiting sentencing	
10	and out on bail, I was shot four times, twice in	
11	the chest and twice in the stomach. I stayed in	
12	the hospital two months and nearly died before I	
13	returned to court. I was out of the hospital, but	
14	I wore a colostomy bag, and had a drainage tube	
15	coming out of stomach. The judge looked at me and	
16	my case and knew my situation, but because of the	
17	mandatory drug laws, he sentenced me to four years	
18	to life.	
19	I went to prison immediately, and	
20	was placed in general population. My condition was	
21	so bad after that, I had to have additional	
22	surgeries while I was in Upstate correctional	
23	facilities. I look at this at this. I'm lucky	
24	to even be alive, because I didn't just get a life	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	sentence, I was really given a death sentence. And
3	I wasn't really expected to make it out alive.
4	But I'm not bitter about the
5	situation anymore, now I realize that the judge
6	probably had no choice because of the mandatory
7	drug laws. My personal background, record of no
8	prior criminal convictions, or my health conditions
9	could not change the circumstances. The judge had
10	no real discretion. And I know this now, but
11	it's but that is just a problem as it is.
12	The Commission looks at really
13	reforming the Rockefeller Drug Laws. You need to
14	keep these two things in mind:
15	First, judges need to be given
16	back the opportunity to make the real decisions in
17	resentencing, cases need to be looked at
18	individually, because each individual's
19	circumstances are unique and play play into who
20	they are and why they have made the choices they
21	have.
22	And secondly, you need to
23	understand that although the reform effect
24	efforts made up to know to now have been made in
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 217

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	good faith, there are too many people like myself
3	who are still ineligible for resentencing, because
4	I have an A-two felony conviction, and I have
5	already served out my mandatory sentencing in
6	prison, I still have life on my back.
7	In speaking to Parole, I was told
8	that after an indeterminant period of time, which I
9	guess they decide upon, I can apply to have the
10	life removed.
11	Sounds confusing; huh? So
12	imagine how I feel.
13	But I want to explain something
14	further to you today about why I really want to
15	move on from this lifetime parole situation. Over
16	the past three years I have returned to prison
17	three times, totaling about twenty-six months. I
18	did not go back to jail because I committed any
19	crimes, but because of technical parole violations.
20	Do you know what makes a
21	technical parole violation?
22	Being a grown man and having to
23	be in the house at nine p.m., not being able to
24	drive a car, even though you have driver's license,
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Her

Page 218

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	not being able to have a cellular phone, not being
3	able to associate with immediate family members
4	because of their criminal past. I don't know no
5	family members that they never been to jail. A
6	dog and don't and having a dog, and don't
7	think you can ever even have a sip of alcohol.
8	I understand there are needs to
9	be guidelines to assure public safety, but if you
10	live where I live, and if you've seen what I've
11	seen, then you know how hard it is to survive out
12	here, it is so hard.
13	And when a person like me does
14	find the opportunity to work and do right, it's
15	almost impossible to maintain that lifestyle. The
16	way that people have set up, first off, finding a
17	job where a person is willing to hire you with a
18	felony is hard enough. They don't help you at all
19	they just tell you that if you don't find a job
20	right away, you have to report to their office
21	every morning.
22	Even if you do find a job, they
23	show up wearing their bulletproof vest, and their
24	guns, showing to check upon you. Now, everybody in
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing

Page 219

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	the work setting looks at you like you're crazy,
3	and that's another barrier to overcome. If you can
4	assure a good job, they might just make you quit
5	because of the work hours or the location or
6	because they don't think a convicted felon should
7	be doing that sort of work.
8	The money that is spent to to
9	send in parole violators back up north could be
10	could be much better spent in community-based
11	programming. That might really have an impact on
12	people being more successful on the streets; things
13	like job training programs, alternatives to
14	incarceration, a system of graduated sentencing,
15	substance-abuse treatment, personal and family
16	counseling. And by remaining in the community
17	people could sustain probably relationships with
18	family members and employers.
19	Currently, I am a full-time
20	student at Onondaga Community College, I had and
21	I had to battled hard to get parole to approve
22	that. I am majoring in the criminal justice, and
23	my goal is to develop effective reentry strategies
24	and help others who find themselves in similar
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	situations.
3	As a person on life parole I
4	cannot vote; that is a whole other issue that this
5	Commission may need to look at into the future, so
6	I decide to come and talk to you all today, because
7	this is probably the only opportunity that someone
8	like me has to have my voice heard. Not that this
9	voice is not just my own, but there are many people
10	like me who don't even know about this type of
11	forum.
12	Thank you for listening to me
13	today. I hope that you take all this into
14	consideration as you prepare your recommendations
15	for the governor.
16	MS. O'DONNELL: Mr. Williams,
17	thank you very much for taking the time to come
18	here and share your very thoughtful and considerate
19	remarks with us.
20	I understand we may be running a
21	little bit ahead of schedule, about ten minutes,
22	but if there are any other speakers, Tamar
23	Kraft-Stoller, Patricia Durham, Valerie Faust, Carl
24	Hatch, and our last speaker Randy Credico, we would
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing

		Page 221
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	love to hear from you. Otherwise, I guess we'll	
3	take a ten-minute break and catch up with our	
4	schedule.	
5	(A recess was taken at 2:08 p.m.)	
6	(The hearing resumed at 2:39	
7	p.m.)	
8	MR. VANCE: Good afternoon, Mr.	
9	Hatch.	
10	MR. HATCH: Good afternoon.	
11	MR. VANCE: How are you?	
12	MR. HATCH: Good.	
13	MR. VANCE: Thanks for coming.	
14	MR. HATCH: Thank you for having	
15	these hearings. Should I go ahead?	
16	MR. VANCE: Let's get started,	
17	yeah.	
18	MR. HATCH: Okay. I'm Paul	
19	Hatch, I'm the copresident of the Reentry	
20	Association of New York, which includes	
21	representatives of the nine operating county	
22	reentry task forces, as well as other interested	
23	individuals. I'm also a vice president at Catholic	
24	Family Center in Rochester, which provides staff	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

		Page 222
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	support to the Monroe County reentry task force.	
3	My background includes	
4	thirty-three years of work in behavioral health in	
5	community-based treatment settings, with extensive	
6	involvement with clients involved in the criminal	
7	justice system. My remarks today grow out of that	
8	experience, and have not been vetted by either	
9	Catholic Family Center or RAMY.	
10	First, let me begin by commenting	
11	the Commission on the breadth and depth of your	
12	preliminary report, a report made all the more	
13	remarkable by the limited amount of time in which	
14	it was put together. Such a comprehensive view is	
15	long overdue given the ad hoc, and often	
16	contradictory, public policy, which has evolved	
17	around sentencing and public safety.	
18	My comments today will focus on	
19	part three of your preliminary report, the science	
20	of crime reduction using evidence-based practices	
21	to reduce recidivism.	
22	Using my own county's experience,	
23	I can say with certainty that the transition from	
24	prison to community model, which the state has	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

Page 223

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	begun implementing in the nine impact counties, has
3	opened the door to a new era in reentry.
4	Prior to the implementation of
5	the county reentry task force, the organizations in
6	the criminal justice community in our county all
7	certainly knew each other and worked very well
8	together. Similarly, the faith- and
9	community-based players had a long history of close
10	collaboration. But the creation of the reentry
11	task force marked the first time that those two
12	communities regularly began sitting down with each
13	other. And the result has been a new level of
14	synergy and optimism, that we can make a meaningful
15	difference in public safety.
16	The eleven mandated partners in
17	our county grew to nineteen committed organizations
18	even before our grant application was submitted,
19	and has subsequently grown to over fifty active
20	entities over the past year. Our task force
21	recently held its second annual recognition event
22	and a thank you event, for participating
23	individuals, and we wound up inviting a hundred and
24	nine people who have made specific contributions to

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

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Page 224

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	the reentry effort in our county. The turnout for
3	our regularly scheduled task force meetings now
4	averages close to fifty.
5	Much has been done, but we still
6	have a ways to go, parolees still don't have all
7	have photo identification, birth certificates and
8	social security cards, but the numbers are
9	climbing.
10	Despite an expedated expedited
11	process, established by our department of social
12	services, for benefit enrollment for task force
13	clients, many outside the task force, still
14	struggle with the routine process of establishing
15	eligibility, and must endure the forty-five day
16	wait.
17	Names of upcoming releasees now
18	flow much more smoothly, although the detailed
19	information needed to ensure appropriate program
20	placement still lags much of the time.
21	Housing, especially for sex
22	offenders, is in a state of crisis. We recently
23	did a study on the referrals two hundred
24	referrals that we have worked with over the last
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing

Page 225

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	fifteen months and we're averaging sixty-six days
3	postrelease to find a suitable housing placement
4	for task force clients when they're sex offenders.
5	Your preliminary report
6	appropriately identified many of the major hurdles
7	to be addressed, the limited availability of
8	step-down facilities like the Orleans reentry
9	prison and work release, really hampers the
10	transitional planning related to job readiness,
11	employment, family integration, treatment planning
12	and community preparedness. Education and
13	vocational training, especially programs that
14	provide diplomas or certificates that are
15	nationally recognized, is a gap. Housing is a huge
16	problem and effectively undermines whatever other
17	good work is being done on treatment and
18	employment.
19	The probability of being able to
20	successfully address all of these problems, absent
21	a consistent and validated risk assessment tool, is
22	low. We need to focus our efforts on the
23	individuals who pose the greatest risk to public
24	safety. A consistent instrument needs to be
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

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Page 226

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	applied from sentencing through incarceration and
3	back to community supervision.
4	As you point out, utilization of
5	resources on low-risk offenders actually increases
6	their chance of recidivism, and it certainly
7	dilutes what we are able to do for those about whom
8	we should be most concerned.
9	Similarly, identification and
10	targeting of criminogenic needs must also occur if
11	we are to get the best outcomes. D.C.J.S. has done
12	some promising work in both of these areas, but we
13	need to get a consistent instrument in place across
14	presentence investigation, sentencing,
15	incarceration and community supervision. We may
16	need to refine the tool as we implement this
17	approach and gather data, but we need to get this
18	most basic mechanism in place now.
19	Service delivery, whether it is
20	in the pretrial services, alternatives to
21	incarceration, correction facilities or in faith-
22	and community-based agencies, needs to adapt the
23	same kind of rigor. There is a large and growing
24	evidence base about what works and what doesn't.

Page 227

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	Program evaluation has matured to the point where
3	it should be included as a routine part of every
4	aspect of service delivery, and continuous quality
5	improvement should be the guiding principle guiding
6	our public policy.
7	A word of caution however, the
8	literature is clear that evidence-based practices
9	only work when the models are fully funded and
10	implemented. The same goes for program evaluation
11	methodologies. These are not processes that can be
12	done cheaply. But when the potential savings from
13	reduced use of incarceration, reduced recidivism
14	and increased public safety are factored in, they
15	do not need to result in overall increases in
16	public spending.
17	I also applaud your
18	recommendations about the use of graduated
19	sanctions for parole violators. I certainly
20	believe there will always be individuals who should
21	be returned to prison. But the current all or
22	nothing options for dealing with parole violations
23	is both ineffective and expensive.
24	I have seen parolees who have

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	made a terrific start in reentry, but who have
3	committed a technical violation that has cost them
4	housing, a promising job, as well as all the
5	prosocial relationships they begun to establish.
6	The literature is clear that the swiftness and
7	certainty of penalties, not their severity is the
8	key to effectiveness.
9	I have also seen parolees
10	returned to prison for technical violations,
11	complete their sentence, and then get released
12	without supervision. Surely public safety would
13	have been better served by a graduated sanction and
14	community supervision, rather than warehousing them
15	until they are finally released with no supervision
16	whatsoever.
17	Finally, I want to end by
18	returning to the transition from prison to
19	community model. I've gotten to know most, if not
20	all, of my peers working with the other county
21	reentry task forces. I cannot help be struck by
22	how differently the nine original task forces have
23	evolved. They all began with the same foundational
24	training; they have all worked closely with these
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	D.C.J.S. and Parole in implementing the model; they
3	have all participated freely, ensuring best
4	practices, successes and failures. But they all
5	look and operate quite differently.
6	I truly believe that such
7	diversity is a strength not a weakness. You just
8	have to pull together stakeholders in their
9	individual communities, each has inventoried
10	resources and the gaps in the area they serve, and
11	each has developed a unique strategic plan and
12	approach.
13	I hope that as the Commission
	I hope that as the Commission wrestles with the best way to formulate a coherent
13	-
13 14	wrestles with the best way to formulate a coherent
13 14 15	wrestles with the best way to formulate a coherent public policy in this area that it leaves room for
13 14 15 16	wrestles with the best way to formulate a coherent public policy in this area that it leaves room for some variation in approach so that implementation
 13 14 15 16 17 	wrestles with the best way to formulate a coherent public policy in this area that it leaves room for some variation in approach so that implementation can be tailored to the needs of each community.
 13 14 15 16 17 18 	wrestles with the best way to formulate a coherent public policy in this area that it leaves room for some variation in approach so that implementation can be tailored to the needs of each community. Again, thank you for your hard
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 	wrestles with the best way to formulate a coherent public policy in this area that it leaves room for some variation in approach so that implementation can be tailored to the needs of each community. Again, thank you for your hard work and for such a promising start.
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 	wrestles with the best way to formulate a coherent public policy in this area that it leaves room for some variation in approach so that implementation can be tailored to the needs of each community. Again, thank you for your hard work and for such a promising start. MR. VANCE: Thank you very much.
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 	wrestles with the best way to formulate a coherent public policy in this area that it leaves room for some variation in approach so that implementation can be tailored to the needs of each community. Again, thank you for your hard work and for such a promising start. MR. VANCE: Thank you very much. Any questions?

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		Page 230
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	
2	MR. HATCH: Okay.	
3	MR. VANCE: we really	
4	appreciate it.	
5	MR. HATCH: Thank you.	
6	MR. VANCE: Is Ms. Durham here?	
7	Please step up and join us. Good	
8	afternoon.	
9	MS. DURHAM: Good afternoon.	
10	MR. VANCE: It's nice to have	
11	you.	
12	MS. DURHAM: Nice to be here.	
13	MR. VANCE: Would you just give	
14	us your name, and we welcome hearing from you.	
15	MS. DURHAM: My name is Patricia	
16	Durham, and you want to know why I am here?	
17	MR. VANCE: Sure.	
18	MS. DURHAM: I am here to speak	
19	on behalf of continued reform for the Rockefeller	
20	Drug Law, to share my personal story and experience	
21	with Rockefeller Drug Law.	
22	First of all, I want to just say	
23	thank you for the opportunity of coming before you	
24	and speaking. My son, as some my have noticed, my	
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing	800.523.7887

Page 231

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	face has been on various commercials and
3	televisions and speaking for different
4	organizations that I knew nothing about. In
5	reference to Rockefeller Drug Law, my son was
6	arrested in August of 2000, and I knew nothing
7	about this law.
8	Once it affected me personally,
9	because of my only son, Tavares Boon, he was given
10	eighteen years to life for his first and only - and
11	I say "only," because I speak in confidence that
12	this experience will not lead him back into
13	incarceration - and hearing the gentleman speaking
14	before me on different things that need to happen
15	once they're they have been released I strongly
16	support that, my son was given another opportunity
17	at reentering society.
18	I picked him up from the
19	correctional facility, in which he was, March of
20	this year, because of drug law reform and
21	continuing, since that during that time, I
22	because of who I am and the belief that I have in
23	everything, going taking time out of my life and
24	supporting him in his poor choices that he had, in
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	spite of all the training and skills that I gave
3	him, my mother gave him, after all I had him at a
4	very young age, and everything that each person
5	here that if you have children, or you have loved
6	ones, you don't want them to walk down certain
7	areas of life.
8	During that six-and-a-half-year
9	incarceration that Tavares had, I was given the
10	opportunity to meet various other inmates that are
11	still behind the prison walls that deserve another
12	opportunity to reenter society. And it's a
13	disservice that I would do if I still did not
14	become an active activist and supporter of
15	encouraging you to search your hearts and to
16	continue to make the changes. We have made great
17	steps and great changes, but there are still a lot
18	of changes that needs to be done.
19	I sit here to report to you that
20	because of supervision, parole supervision that
21	Tavares has, he has five years parole, some of that
22	he can get off on good behavior. He is being
23	successful; however, as a mother, I still have that
24	just want him to succeed and and do all that he
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	wants.
3	One of the things that I've
4	noticed is that he wants everything back today.
5	That's not going to happen. He's in school, he's
6	enrolled at the Educational Opportunity Center here
7	in Albany. He is scheduled to go into Hudson
8	Valley Community College to seek his dreams, that
9	I've pushed him to go get an education.
10	He comes from a supportive,
11	loving family, and was just looking for love in all
12	the wrong places. He paid a great price, a great
13	sacrifice, because once again his choices and the
14	decisions he made just to want to be a part of
15	society to be accepted by society.
16	And because of the people that I
17	grew to know, different organizations, especially
18	Arise - I see some of their representatives that's
19	here - that just took me under their wing, I had no
20	idea how I was going to get through this difficult,
21	traumatic experience in my life. I just could not
22	understand how and it's not to excuse that he
23	did wrong, he did a crime, but I just could not
24	understand, and and I just couldn't comprehend
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing

1	
1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	how it's like eighteen to eighteen years to
3	life, it just did did not make sense to me. And
4	I would lay in my bed - I was in a heavy
5	depression - and just see where there was other
6	crimes with less time, and I was like something has
7	to be done. And I when I wanted to give up,
8	people that didn't even know me, they embraced me,
9	they encouraged me. And that is why we have come
10	so far in the reform of the Rockefeller Drug Law,
11	and that's why so much more that's needed, so much
12	more that's needed.
13	And I have learned, through my
14	own prejudices at that time, once an inmate always
15	an inmate. If they go to prison they're always
16	going to be there. I knew nothing until it happen
17	to my own family.
18	I thought that my family didn't
19	love me; I thought my church didn't love me; I
20	just every thing. I just I just couldn't
21	understand what was going on. I was very angry. I
22	was angry at the criminal justice system, I was
23	angry at the police officers, I was angry at
24	Schenectady County, but I have grown from that
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 235

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	experience and and know that I was very
3	disappointed, and just didn't know, didn't know.
4	And if it was not for the help that is available
5	out here now, and the continued help and support, I
6	would not have gotten through some of the most
7	difficult moments of my life.
8	I'm quite sure we all have our
9	own story, but this is true, this is real. I never
10	thought and when my son would sit there as I
11	visit him, when I took out days out of my life
12	where I could have been doing something else, I did
13	what any mother, any father would do by instilling
14	those that integrity, those morals that I grew
15	up on, and just when he didn't have hope, I
16	couldn't give up my hope, and he would tell the
17	other inmates, "oh, she is naive," or "when it
18	finally hit her, you have to be there for her," and
19	I just believed and I had hope in this system that
20	something was going to change, because through my
21	education of the law, and continuing education, the
22	way it was designed to really affect those that
23	need to, it is not working in that way. That was
24	then, this is now.

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007	rage
2	And just like with everything	
3	else now we have better ways. We have the	
4	microwave, Burger King is no longer the "have it	
5	your way," Burger King is not the only one with	
6	that motto, and Nike came out with the best slogan,	
7	"Just Do It." And we have come a long way. I	
8	commend you. I can't ask you enough, I just can't	
9	ask you enough. I appreciate the work that we've	
10	done, that all that you do every day.	
11	And I know just to take time out,	
12	I can't even imagine just sitting there, listening	
13	to all these speakers, and probably like, "okay, I	
14	got to make sure I'm paying attention, even if I'm	
15	not paying attention." But I appreciate that.	
16	And I just that's my desire.	
17	And Tavares will continue to be that role model.	
18	Now, he's struggling with, "I need an apartment,	
19	could I come home?" "No, you're a grown man. No	
20	you cannot come home." But he does have a home.	
21	However, the best thing for him, because me, the	
22	enabling mother, wants him to come home. However,	
23	I'm following the advice of Parole, and those that	
24	are in charge of his care right now. And he is	
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NY Public Hearing	800.52

Page 237

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	being successful right now. And I just I just
3	wanted to come and share his story, and he wanted
4	to be here but responsibility and accountability
5	come first.
6	Thank you.
7	MR. VANCE: Thank you very much.
8	And we appreciate you coming, and I I we have
9	no difficulty being interested in what you have to
10	say. I I'm sure of that.
11	Any questions?
12	All right. Thank you so much.
13	MS. DURHAM: You're welcome.
14	MR. VANCE: Mr. Credico?
15	MR. CREDICO: Yes.
16	MR. VANCE: Good afternoon,
17	welcome.
18	MR. CREDICO: Good afternoon,
19	thank you.
20	My name is Randy Credico.
21	Good afternoon, Commissioners.
22	I'm sure you're a little burned out, you've been
23	here for a long-time, just to drive from New York
24	City I'm burned out, but I'm glad to be here.
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	My name is Randy Credico. I'm
3	with the William Moses Kunstler Fund for Racial
4	Justice. I'm also political stand-up
5	impressionist. I used to do your father's boss.
6	Like this, I used to do Jimmy
7	Carter years ago, I'm not going to do that now.
8	I'm just trying to liven up the place little bit
9	here. So and I did Reagan after that.
10	But I'm here today first I
11	want to comment to Governor Spitzer for putting
12	this Commission together. I know it's been about
13	eight months ago when this thing was initiated,
14	along with his attempts to help out undocumented
15	workers, I give him very high marks for those two
16	initiatives.
17	I think he is the first governor
18	to take on two issues this big since William Seward
19	in 1837 in this state. And this last issue of
20	warrant for the xenophobia and the racism, and the
21	disinformation, maybe he could have gotten
22	something done.
23	Seward had the same problem
24	with with the Know-Nothings and the Whig Party
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1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	back in 1837. All right. That's all the history
3	I'm going to give you.
4	I'm the gentleman who was
5	talking about parole, there's a real irony that the
6	biggest antiparole man, who is totally against
7	parole, he said that for eight years, is Rudolph
8	Giuliani. The irony there is, is that Rudy
9	Giuliani is here today because there was parole
10	that Governor Smith, or Governor Roosevelt, didn't
11	get rid of parole in the '30s because his father
12	spent three years in prison on an eight-year prison
13	sentence for an armed robbery, Harold Giuliani in
14	Sing Sing, and he only got out because of parole.
15	And Rudy, now is walking around saying, "we got to
16	get rid of parole."
17	I wouldn't be here as well,
18	because my father did time in prison before I was
19	born, and he got out on parole. But it wasn't a
20	violent crime like Harold Giuliani's.
21	I will say that there are so many
22	issues to cover here, and everyone has the last
23	couple of days I'm sure everything's been vetted a
24	million times. So, there are a few things I want
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 240

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	to bring up. First of all, I am strongly urging
3	that the Commission recommend that there be a state
4	constitutional convention to do away with the way
5	we select judges in this state. That's got to be
6	done. The current scam of the court of claims has
7	made it a factory for you you cannot put
8	use patronage to put in judges, which is what's
9	happening right now throughout the state.
10	Patronage, in Manhattan, which you watch Law and
11	Order it's nothing like that, I deal with that 100
12	Center Street all the time.
13	Most of the judges are coming out
14	of the district attorney's office. You've got
15	white judges, who do not not never having to
16	face the public - never having to face the public -
17	who have views that go against the grain of our
18	particular community.
19	I will give an example of Judge
20	Ed McLaughlin or Judge Lewis B. Stone, Judge
21	Charles Solomon all out of Manhattan District
22	Attorney's Office, they are the worst on
23	Rockefeller Drug Law cases. Even though the people
24	in Manhattan, ninety percent support changes, these
	Associated Penerters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Hearing

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	judges do not represent the people. In fact, the
3	whole 100 Center Street to me is nothing more than
4	a modern day slave auction block, I hate to use
5	that kind of terminology, but it's true.
6	It's you walk in there, you
7	walk into a courtroom, you will see a white judge,
8	a white young assistant D.A., a white appointed
9	lawyer, who the judge appoints and is a little
10	nervous about going against the grain, and a black
11	defendant. That's all you see there.
12	Once in a while, Chambers is the
13	one exception, this last week that's a big marquee
14	name, although the suppliers got away and they got
15	the small guy as usual down there. But time and
16	again, you know, these, you know, victims of
17	racism racism is what this is all about. The
18	Rockefeller Drug Laws and other crimes, basically
19	racism.
20	And you know, I've got ten
21	minutes and I'm trying to get so much in here,
22	I'm I'm urging for a Racial Profiling Bill for
23	Governor Spitzer to put a Racial Profiling Bill, if
24	it's good enough for New Jersey and many other
	Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page 242

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007		
2	states across the country, it's good enough for New		
3	York. We need a Racial Profiling Bill, it's been		
4	languishing in the senate minority conference, and		
5	Cabinet Parker's Committee there has a Racial		
6	Profiling Bill, we need that right now. Because on		
7	all levels it's still blacks and Latinos and a		
8	hundred percent poor people who are filling these		
9	prisons.		
10	And they're getting heavy		
11	heavy time, Junior Gums (phonetic spelling)		
12	Junior Gums, based on the testimony of a mob a		
13	mob associate, by the name of Bernard Kerik is in		
14	jail for thirty-three years to life, and the he		
15	went up for resentencing and they didn't		
16	re-sentence him even though he has a perfect		
17	fifteen year without one infraction in in		
18	in in Attica prison.		
19	This guy is doing thirteen years		
20	more than Albert Speer, who's the architect of the		
21	Nazi war machine, thirteen years longer than Albert		
22	Speer.		
23	We still have we still have		
24	sentences on the books where people are getting		
	Associated Departure Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Dublic Hearing		

Page 243

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	more time than Nazi war criminals. So, we
3	definitely need to change the Rockefeller Drug
4	Laws, we need to make further changes in the
5	Rockefeller Drug Laws.
6	I saw a guy the other day in
7	in court getting one to three years on a plea
8	bargain for stealing a pair of sunglasses at Macys.
9	One to three years.
10	You know, white people like
11	like Russell Crowe can try to kill someone with a
12	telephone and do no time, it's in really bad shape.
13	The criminal justice system cannot be tinkered
14	with. Bill Kunstler said this ten years ago,
15	the the job of the judiciary in the state and
16	legal system is to put people in prison, on the
17	appellate level it's to keep them there, and it has
18	not changed, it has not changed, and it needs
19	radical change, not tinkering, we need radical
20	change.
21	It's amazing John Brown who was
22	buried a hundred miles north of this, in North
23	Elba, from this this city, you know, when he was
24	alive there were only a few hundred

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	African-Americans in prison, today there are forty,
3	fifty thousand in his state. I'm sure he would
4	have taken different actions than I'm taking today,
5	he would be appalled.
6	This woman who just testified I
7	work with the Mothers of New York Disappeared, I
8	hear the stories all the time, it's not anecdotal.
9	It's not anecdotal. There's a kid by the name of
10	Darius King doing eleven and three eleven and a
11	half to twenty-three years for a nickel attempted
12	sale. I got the transcript, a nickel attempted
13	sale of crack. Eleven and a half to twenty-three
14	years. His mother is sick, dying, and he's got an
15	eighteen-year-old daughter who's paralyzed from the
16	neck down. If he had sold two ounces of cocaine,
17	he could have gotten relief, but since he was
18	selling nickel bag, when you guys put that package
19	together two years ago in 2004, three years ago,
20	you didn't think of Darius King. So, he spends
21	more time than the bigger dealers, the bigger
22	users.
23	I think I have burned enough
24	bridges here. Thank you.

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	But there's so many things to
3	cover, I I really you know, I know you've
4	heard it all on Rockefeller, the criminal justice
5	system definitely needs to be overhauled in a
6	major, major way.
7	That's why I drove up here, they
8	just talked for ten minutes from from New York
9	City, I was going to do it in Manhattan the other
10	day, but I had a problem with bail hearing, they
11	have excessive bail, there's a woman who's an
12	addict, because she's associated with a guy who
13	killed somebody, but she's just an addict, and they
14	impose a twenty-five-thousand-dollar bail on this
15	woman, and they wouldn't let me put the money up
16	because I don't know her. You know, but she's just
17	an addict, that's a pretty heavy bail.
18	We need to take a good look,
19	that's what I'm doing now, my organization is doing
20	a documentary on the system in Manhattan from the
21	bottom up, from the cops, racial profiling, and I
22	believe it comes from the commissioner. The
23	commissioner who was involved in one of the biggest
24	scandals in the in the customs department back
	Associated Reporters Int'l Inc. 11/15/2007 Albany NV Public Heat

Page 246

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	in 1999; nine out of ten women who were
3	strip-searched were black, nine out of ten, now
4	he's the commissioner.
5	Too many people are going to jail
6	that are black and too many people are dying that
7	are black, like Patrick Dorsman, like Loretta
8	Spruel (phonetic spellings), like Kenneth Banks,
9	like Malcolm Ferguson, Amadou Diallo.
10	Racism is in the weave of the
11	fabric, and that's got to change. And I hope that
12	the first thing you do is recommend we have a
13	Racial Profiling Bill passed.
14	Thank you.
15	MR. VANCE: Thank you. Thank
16	you, Mr. Credico. You didn't burn any bridges
17	here, we appreciated hearing from you, and
18	appreciate you driving up from New York City.
19	MR. CREDICO: You don't have a
20	question for me, Joe?
21	MR. LENTOL: I don't have a
22	question for you, not today.
23	MR. CREDICO: Okay.
24	MR. LENTOL: Thank you.

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	MR. CREDICO: Thank you.
3	MR. VANCE: Thank you.
4	I believe that may conclude our
5	list of scheduled speakers. And on behalf of
6	Chairperson O'Donnell, and all of us here, I want
7	to thank each and every one of you for making the
8	effort to come here.
9	Our last two hearing dates have
10	been, I think, for all of us, very interesting,
11	incredibly informative everyone who has taken the
12	time to talk to us have helped us in our process a
13	great deal. It has really resonated with us. And
14	we genuinely thank you, and I appreciate your
15	input.
16	(The hearing concluded at 3:12
17	p.m.)
18	
19	
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21	
22	
23	
24	

1	Commission on Sentencing Reform - 11-15-2007
2	I, Nathan B. Roberts, do hereby certify that the
3	foregoing was taken by me, in the cause, at the time
4	and place, and in the presence of counsel, as stated
5	in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that before
6	giving testimony said witness(es) was (were) duly
7	sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and
8	nothing but the truth; that the foregoing typewritten
9	transcription, consisting of pages number 1 to 247,
10	inclusive, is a true record prepared by me and
11	completed by Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. from
12	materials provided by me.
13	
14	Nathan B. Roberts, Reporter
15	Date
16	
17	rnbr/tbc/pllm
18	
19	
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21	
22	
23	
24	

Page 249

		Page 24
A	accessible 11:20	140:8,15 185:18,19
abandoned 68:12 152:12	accomplish 7:2 54:11	addiction 46:10 67:3
abbreviated 21:4	145:3	134:23 135:2 141:8
abdicated 35:22	accomplished 159:8 160:9	147:20 177:5 184:10
	accomplishments 21:19	addicts 26:22 27:14,17,20
abet 191:23 192:13	accountability 15:18 17:18	27:22 67:4 103:11
ability 23:12 75:17 79:8 94:21 129:8 138:9 199:23	54:17 185:12 237:4	adding 110:8
	accountable 8:9	addition 9:2 10:2 29:20
201:15 212:4	accrues 203:4	52:10 60:14 66:4 117:11
able 36:24 39:18 71:24	accurate 117:12	169:24
74:5 75:10 81:2 121:18	accurately 117:7	additional 40:4 149:20
125:15 137:2 152:20	accused 206:22 207:9	173:20 215:21
153:21 154:3,5 175:14	achieve 160:13 168:17	address 7:23 9:11 18:7
179:16 181:12,17 187:19	achieved 22:4,7 145:10	20:16 22:16 32:18 64:14
192:14 202:21 204:17,18	Achievement 80:22	
204:22 217:23 218:2,3	achievements 177:24	66:22 67:17 114:19,20 120:10 123:2 129:14
225:19 226:7		136:22 193:11 204:8
abolish 52:14,18	achieving 74:23	225:20
abolished 53:10,21	acknowledge 40:11 43:20 57:19	addressed 176:14 198:23
abolishing 116:10	• • • • • •	209:22 225:7
abolition 52:2 53:11,16	acknowledged 52:13	
54:2 57:3 195:16	acknowledges 124:6 127:7	addressing 53:23 54:10,16 65:7 128:18 177:8
abolitionism 52:19	acknowledgment 50:19	
abolitionist 57:9	acquainted 161:7	adequately 90:17 107:16 administration 21:14
abound 50:8	acquire 160:16 acquitted 189:12	143:4 145:23
absence 111:13	act 150:3 200:23	administrative 12:11 36:5
absent 202:2 225:20	action 180:10 204:21	41:22 173:17 197:22
absolute 88:24 118:9	actions 50:19 112:14 244:4	Administrators 34:3
absolutely 75:15 94:11	active 30:20 105:11 159:7	admiring 149:18
97:24 124:9,11 137:5	223:19 232:14	admitting 124:7
139:10 141:11 143:8	activist 232:14	adolescent 96:8
	activities 73:11,12 79:18	adolescents 109:13 211:7
abuse 26:13 62:20 64:3,18	176:20	212:11
65:16 99:21 126:10 127:5	activity 56:23	adopt 94:6
127:10,12,24 132:13	actual 59:23	adopted 52:24
133:13,22 175:19 179:20 abusers 62:21	actuarial 13:3,9 14:13	adopting 116:8
	ad 222:15	adoption 95:20
accept 118:18 181:10 198:3	adapt 226:22	adult 8:16 11:10 13:4,8
	add 34:15 146:20 149:20	16:7,10 38:10 208:18
acceptance 114:12 accepted 198:12 233:15	154:19 171:19 211:20	209:8,8,13,20 210:8
access 65:13 70:22 80:18	added 89:3	211:5,9 213:12
80:21 153:17 165:12	addict 99:4 105:15 112:10	adults 96:10 207:19 208:4
192:14 209:16	144:3 245:12,13,17	208:18 210:20 211:3,15
accessibility 71:12	addicted 26:22 126:7,13	212:12
	,	

		Page 250
advance 49:8	agency's 57:2	43:15,16,19 113:21 114:7
advantage 70:13 182:5	agenda 135:9,10	114:23 115:7 129:22
advantages 71:17	ages 174:8	135:14 171:19 172:14
advent 93:18	aggrieved 118:17	182:11,14
adversely 22:21	ago 37:24 49:19 84:24	Alice 2:11 48:14,24
advertised 75:22	88:22 112:13,14,17	Alison 2:12 88:14
advice 9:14 73:9 236:23	122:18 136:11 167:4	alive 215:24 216:3 243:24
advise 41:22 205:12	193:18 194:16,19 214:22	alleviate 50:19
advised 206:4	238:7,13 243:14 244:19	Alliance 157:21,23 158:7
advisors 72:10	244:19	158:11
advisory 85:4	Agostini 2:13 101:20,22,23	allocate 11:9 14:18
advocacy 10:11 55:21	102:4 113:21 114:5,14	allocation 12:20
116:14	115:2,8	allotted 5:22
advocate 56:5 122:3	agree 22:18 23:20 34:13	allow 24:22,23 40:12 54:20
advocated 121:5	42:14 86:15 118:2 183:6	71:14 103:22 109:14
advocates 4:17	191:12 206:21 207:23	123:24 170:13 191:11,12
advocating 67:13 121:11	210:11	203:16 208:19
167:24	agreement 127:8 160:22	allowed 68:18 206:12
affairs 52:13	ahead 31:18 125:14 171:3	allowing 59:6 102:2 106:12
affect 22:21 117:2 235:22	220:21 221:15	113:16
afford 153:18	aid 10:3 37:19 39:2 115:21	allows 5:23 18:2 23:9 24:3
affordable 70:22	150:13 196:21	alluded 199:2
afraid 141:9	AIDS 144:19 147:20,22	alternative 7:24 31:7 35:5
Africa 145:14	155:8	35:6 37:8 54:17 56:6
African-American 150:6	aimed 158:3	86:10 95:14 98:21 160:20
174:8	alarm 110:6	162:7
African-Americans 49:16	Albany 1:13 5:13 44:16,24	alternatives 6:7,15 8:14
51:18 52:9 62:15 244:2	47:13 49:5 54:7,15,16,19	10:5,10 15:16 18:18
aftercare 68:14 72:3 77:8	67:11 75:21 76:24 90:8	31:12 55:12 56:9 57:7,16
afternoon 126:4 183:19,20	90:12 92:5 142:3,19	84:19 161:20 219:13
196:18 221:8,10 230:8,9	150:16,21 152:11 168:7	226:20
237:16,18,21	172:11,12 185:12 186:6	Amadou 246:9
after-school 152:22	233:7	amazing 68:9 69:17 74:10
age 16:6,9 105:5 156:9	albeit 12:6	190:4 243:21
161:23 174:12 205:23	Albert 242:20,21	amendment 198:11
206:9 212:10,15 232:4	Albion 130:3	America 35:9 49:22 186:16
agencies 7:19 8:7 90:9	alcohol 10:11 15:7 64:3	American 11:14
109:20,21 119:15,21	129:3,11 132:13 134:22	Americans 210:11,12
121:6 127:11,13 180:16	134:24 144:21 145:18	amount 92:23 147:3
181:4,4,7,22 182:17	155:11 178:24 218:7	201:14 222:13
226:22	Alcoholics 104:19	amounts 131:17
agency 73:21 90:2 119:11	alcoholism 127:12,24	analysis 24:8 100:6
127:19 133:6,24 173:9	133:13,22	analyst 36:9
175:7	Alexander 2:4 5:6,7 24:8	and/or 53:3 119:16
L		

		Page 251
anecdotal 244:8,9	applied 150:17 163:2 226:2	arrears 179:18 199:4 200:2
Angela 52:18	apply 124:15 153:20	200:5,6,9 201:4,14,17,18
angry 106:11 213:14 214:3	197:17 217:9	202:3,4,5,6,8,8,10,14,15
234:21,22,23,23	appointed 241:8	202:18,21 203:4,6
annotated 6:18	appointments 70:20	arrest 32:22 33:3 50:14
annual 28:21 38:20 223:21	appoints 241:9	55:9 99:10
annual 20:21 50:20 225:21 annually 9:17	appreciable 114:11	arrested 55:3 99:15 129:3
Annucci 2:4 5:2,3	appreciate 44:4 72:13	134:21 194:2 206:23
Anonymous 101:21 102:6	81:11 91:12 101:12	207:19 214:22 231:6
102:9,20 104:18,20	120:20 125:8 126:5,14	arrests 64:4
143:10	137:7 182:10 187:16	arrival 37:18
answer 41:11 87:13 94:10	212:19 230:4 236:9,15	art 153:5,7,7
99:20 136:18 153:22	237:8 246:18 247:14	article 98:23,23 117:19
answers 98:5	appreciated 156:24 246:17	arts 79:15
Anthony 2:4 210:6	apprehending 93:14	ASAT 74:16 123:13
antiparole 239:6	apprenticeship 79:22	aside 167:22
Antos 3:2 172:19 196:14	approach 178:5 186:22	asked 28:20 73:10 94:8
196:16,17,20 203:20	226:17 229:12,16	95:6,16 99:19 136:16
anxiety 107:8	approached 50:9	206:5
anybody 94:19 205:15	approaches 178:3	asking 4:21 156:20
anymore 154:8 214:16	appropriate 18:6 26:12,19	aspect 97:18,19 166:23
216:5	27:21 78:2 131:10 138:15	227:4
anyway 214:6,11	140:20 224:19	aspects 82:24 96:7 161:19
apart 11:21 90:6	appropriately 41:3 225:6	162:2 171:2
apartment 71:24 236:18	approve 31:12 219:21	aspire 22:11
apartments 76:8,9	approximately 38:14 39:5	assembly 145:12
appalled 244:5	102:14	Assemblyman 5:14 20:5
apparent 39:19 177:4	April 13:17	82:17 101:24 120:24
apparently 107:3	architect 242:20	Assemblymember 2:5 3:6
appealing 182:3	area 47:2 60:13 74:14 96:6	3:6,7
Appeals 199:11,17	102:18 126:10 127:3	Assemblywoman 175:13
appear 29:11 33:24 58:9	166:17 167:12 173:21	assertion 160:19
97:22 123:8	180:19 186:7 201:17	asserts 52:18
appearance 107:15	210:16 229:10,15	assess 15:5 130:7 181:18
appearing 101:13	areas 43:22 84:12 173:14	assessed 130:8
appears 25:11 52:4 196:4	180:23 226:12 232:7	assessment 13:3,6,9,14,20
appellate 243:17	arena 129:17	14:13,17 15:2 40:23 41:8
appendix 24:10	argue 11:19	41:20 42:5,19,20 65:4
applaud 39:20 45:11 162:8	argued 133:4	86:7 97:23 140:13,16
191:6 227:17	arguing 60:10	141:5,12 163:6,7,11,12
applauding 189:24	arguments 190:10,13	225:21
application 41:2 223:18	arises 25:19	assessments 14:11 176:2
applications 197:18 198:3 198:12	armed 239:13	asset 75:2 93:9
170.12	arraignment 99:24	assets 173:14 180:6 182:6
1		

	, , ,	Page 252
201:3	147:23 163:21 164:6	167:17 170:2 172:3
assigned 67:23 150:13	236:14,15	177:15
201:22	attenuated 16:24	A's 123:16
assimilating 79:9	Attica 242:18	A-one 23:22 102:15 106:8
assist 8:10 15:3 39:18 73:7	attitudes 80:8 112:18	108:7,10 112:11,19,21
80:17 122:3 164:13	143:23 192:23 195:8	113:2,5,13 118:6
173:12 178:13	attorney 5:11,13,17,19	A-ones 105:20
assistance 13:11 32:6	30:11 90:8 93:2 138:3	A-two 23:22 118:6 215:6
60:20 120:14 123:3	147:12 150:5 187:17,22	217:4
145:16 160:14 164:5	197:6 206:6,13	A.A 167:18
173:23 187:6,7 197:11,17	attorneys 20:12,19 21:8	A.D.A.s 29:9
197:20 198:2,3 201:20,23	27:2,7,18 29:3,5,8 30:14	a.m 1:11 4:3 125:23
assistant 5:17 7:5 29:2,5,12	30:18,19,23 31:11 33:10	A.T.I 10:9,12
30:14 77:18 241:8	39:24 60:15 160:23 161:9	
assistants 83:20,24 84:9	161:11 207:6	<u> </u>
assisting 16:22 180:13	attorney's 54:19 185:11	B 2:4 25:17 28:13 60:4,8
assists 76:19	240:14,22	60:11 121:14 123:16
associate 218:3 242:13	attribute 189:18	192:7,7 240:20 248:2,14
associated 45:16 179:9	attributed 114:3	back 45:6 48:12 76:16
245:12 248:11	attributing 74:21	78:17,19 96:22 99:13
association 11:15 20:12	Aubry 3:7 120:24	100:3 121:2 122:17 124:8
21:8 22:22 25:13 51:3	auction 241:4	132:7 135:23 137:3 152:6
72:4 76:19 83:4 190:11	August 6:23 10:15 11:7	152:8 153:13 154:2 171:5
221:20	59:19 231:6	171:6 177:10 180:18,21
associations 79:15 158:17	authorities 9:10 13:12,16	186:24 188:20 212:10,16
assume 71:24	131:11	216:16 217:6,18 219:9
assure 218:9 219:4	authority 18:9 51:11 65:19	226:3 231:12 233:4 239:2
assured 88:3 116:18	authorized 4:22 18:20	245:24
attach 149:15	automatically 80:3	background 74:18 94:7
attached 10:17 197:21	availability 26:16 37:8	216:7 222:3
attachment 60:22	104:6 225:7	backgrounds 86:13 210:18
attain 77:23	available 4:11,12 11:20	backyard 114:16
attained 209:18	15:23 16:20 18:4 28:18	back-end 193:2
attainment 80:8 115:21	39:16 67:24 89:21 90:12	bad 215:21 243:12
attempt 72:2 150:15	161:24 162:6 165:11	badly 138:21
attempted 75:12 244:11,12	180:21 181:19 235:4	bag 215:14 244:18
attempting 67:19 69:9	Avenue 152:16	bail 194:4 206:10 215:10
attempts 32:15 177:23	average 38:2,3,21 189:15	245:10,11,14,17
238:14	averages 224:4	Bailey 149:8
attend 4:7 48:12 50:4 77:6	averaging 225:2	balance 57:3 202:16 203:4
187:20	awaiting 215:9	balloon 149:23
attended 106:4	awake 166:8	bank 105:13
attending 30:7 126:5	awards 209:20	banks 105:22 246:8
attention 50:6 118:20	aware 74:16 101:13 118:11	Baptist 149:7

		D 053
	r	Page 253
bar 92:6 192:5	belief 231:22	219:10 228:13 236:3
barber 200:7	believe 22:24 24:11 40:23	beyond 97:8 105:10 178:6
Barde 3:2 203:24 204:2,4,5	46:17,21 47:10 48:9	Bianchi 21:5
204:6 212:19	51:20 57:18 66:13 71:9	biased 62:12
bargain 161:10,14 243:8	71:19 72:5 85:11 87:21	Bible 167:13
barrier 219:3	97:11 114:2,14 118:18	big 99:5 109:22 171:2
barriers 69:8 74:19,24	119:19 128:10 164:9,18	238:18 241:13
75:3 79:2,5 80:6,7,12	165:2 168:21 179:6	bigger 244:21,21
179:13 180:4	184:11,14 192:13,17	biggest 63:8 64:14 130:20
bars 123:6	194:4 198:23 205:15	239:6 245:23
basal 204:24	209:3 210:13 227:20	Bill 195:21 241:22,23
base 151:2 226:24	229:6 245:22 247:4	242:3,6 243:14 246:13
based 12:16,23 52:24	believed 53:11 215:7	billion 61:16
80:18 98:14 121:17	235:19	bills 73:19
138:16 140:16 159:21	believes 51:14 59:10 66:14	Billy 168:11
161:22 164:21 201:14	87:10 90:23 107:2 108:24	birth 163:19 198:17 224:7
202:23 214:23 242:12	belong 121:10 202:3 204:8	bit 37:14 97:17 125:13
bases 159:24 168:19	belongs 100:8	184:22 220:21 238:8
basic 50:11 69:5 158:17	benchmark 187:12	bitter 216:4
163:7,10 175:14 177:9,19	beneficial 117:21	black 49:22,23 57:21 74:22
226:18	benefit 160:14 224:12	74:24 149:24 241:10
basically 95:7 99:10	benefits 52:11 179:7	246:3,6,7
121:11 167:19 169:4	198:20	blacks 242:7
182:15 241:18	benefits/child 197:4	blame 133:9
basis 14:23 45:2 131:23	Benevolent 83:4	blameworthiness 208:13
battle 44:22 69:6	Beresford 149:7	bless 6:19
battled 219:21	Bernard 2:16 157:7,20	blindly 87:4
bear 102:6 210:15	242:13	block 241:4
beating 76:11	best 14:18,20 24:12 25:22	blocks 74:23
beauty 136:20	32:7 48:2 70:17 73:5	blood 156:6
bed 78:12,15 234:4	113:8 133:11 137:16	blueprint 7:13
beg 74:18 92:13	140:18,19 154:11 169:15	bluntly 83:11
began 23:7 223:12 228:23	190:18,21,21 191:4	blur 109:22
begged 50:18	201:16 226:11 229:3,14	board 24:20,23 54:17
beginning 91:4 98:9	236:6,21	116:22 117:3 124:18
161:15 179:2 189:16	best-interest-of-the 201:5	185:12
begun 223:2 228:5	best-interest-of-the-child	boards 170:14
behalf 5:18 20:18 33:9	201:6	Bob 6:10 34:14 41:10
34:2 115:6 187:10 230:19	bet 166:4	bodies 208:7
247:5	Bethlehem 149:6	body 54:18 85:4 97:3
behavior 8:11 16:23 17:22	better 15:5 19:5 22:12	boldly 178:11
18:7 76:9 177:7 232:22	53:23 55:7,13,14 85:6	books 242:24
behavioral 178:2 222:4	104:23 107:14 114:9	Boon 231:9
behaviors 80:7 112:18	131:20 135:3 205:5	bore 60:24
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~		

**born** 147:22 239:19

**bottom** 136:13 245:21

boss 92:12 238:5

**boundaries** 178:6

**boutique** 35:21 **Bowery** 143:6

brain 96:8 205:2

**brang** 149:14 156:2 **breadth** 222:11

break 58:4 125:16,20

Brennan 31:13 80:5

Brian 5:5 129:21 133:21

**bridges** 244:24 246:16

brief 6:24 80:24 125:20

**bring** 27:11 56:18 83:16 99:12,13 155:3 156:4

182:7 211:23 240:2 bringing 126:22 171:15

**broad** 100:22 187:7

**Broadway** 145:13

brought 93:3 102:13

105:13 132:5,6,7 156:10

broadly 159:11

**Bronx** 188:9

**Brown** 243:21

Brunetti 97:12

budgeting 86:22

**brutal** 118:13

**Bs** 123:18

**brains** 208:6

221:3

134:17 **bridge** 55:22

182:12

**briefly** 102:5

brings 27:4

branches 85:5

breeding 27:5

**Bridget** 31:13

**box** 99:6 **Boy** 97:13,15 **boys** 151:4

	Page 254
Buffalo 69:12 77:2 158:12	capabilities 96:11
<b>build</b> 13:13 177:20	capacities 10:14
<b>building</b> 1:12 72:7 178:8	capacity 17:20
<b>buildings</b> 68:2 79:18	capital 84:6 158:11
152:12	capitalize 77:7
bulletproof 218:23	caption 248:5
burdensome 119:10	captured 193:21
<b>Bureau</b> 150:4	<b>car</b> 217:24
<b>Burger</b> 236:4,5	carcinoma 204:24
burglary 97:13	cards 163:20 198:18 224:8
<b>buried</b> 243:22	<b>care</b> 4:20 50:6 83:9 123:9
<b>burn</b> 246:16	130:2 139:9 140:18
<b>burned</b> 237:22,24 244:23	155:17,18 157:13 214:6
<b>bus</b> 70:15	236:24
<b>business</b> 102:23 144:7	<b>career</b> 20:22 79:13 92:7
147:7 153:9,10 174:16	126:10 136:14
businesslike 193:24	careers 164:16
businessman 100:5	carefully 7:20 24:7
<b>busy</b> 73:16,18 137:10	<b>cares</b> 126:6
196:10	caretakers 155:14
<b>buy</b> 162:19 208:19 209:8	caring 213:12
C	Carl 220:23
$\frac{c}{C1:12}$	Carney 2:18 187:18,20,24
C 1.12 Cabinet 242:5	196:12
calendar 201:12	carpenters 143:2
call 32:21 53:24 72:15,16	Carpenter-Palumbo 2:15
97:3 154:22	126:8,16 135:15,24 136:7
called 42:10 76:3 90:2	136:10 137:8,11,15,20
144:23 167:5 173:2,9	138:5,8,11 140:2,9,24
200:11	141:4,15,19,23
calls 57:12	<b>carrot</b> 26:8
calm 114:17	<b>carry</b> 107:24
<b>Calton</b> 2:16 148:17,21	Carter 143:4 238:7
149:4,4	CASAT 123:12
camera 193:21,22	<b>case</b> 15:4 30:13 41:19,20 42:21 77:19,24 89:7
campaign 114:24	42.21 77.19,24 89.7 97:13 105:7 129:19 130:6
<b>Canada's</b> 186:16	97.13 105.7 129.19 130.6 130:13 136:9 139:3
Canadian 186:15	130.13 130.9 139.3
<b>Cananda's</b> 108:19	194:15,18 199:10 211:8
cancelled 125:15	215:16

194:15,18 199:10 211:8 215:16 caseload 11:5 12:7 14:24 38:2 caseloads 10:20 11:12

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc.

**budget** 26:11 28:21 73:7

86:23 101:18 175:11

cancer 204:13,24 205:3

candidate 75:19

cap 194:16 195:5

		Page 255
17:19 38:7	certify 248:2	Charlie 189:23
<b>cases</b> 12:10 26:13 38:5	<b>cetera</b> 127:14	charted 90:17
46:6,22 116:11 117:5	chains 58:4	chattel 49:21
161:10 188:18 216:17	<b>chair</b> 6:20 7:4 10:16	cheaply 227:12
240:23	142:19 188:2	<b>check</b> 139:11,13 218:24
case-by-case 200:23	<b>chairing</b> 4:5 19:14	<b>chemical</b> 143:8,16 155:7
<b>catch</b> 221:3	<b>chairman</b> 5:7 24:8 44:13	163:8
categories 110:9	<b>chairperson</b> 101:24 102:19	<b>chest</b> 215:11
categorizes 109:19	247:6	Chicago 54:14
Catholic 221:23 222:9	Chairwoman 33:22	<b>chief</b> 5:7 19:24 41:21 44:15
caught 63:10 73:23 74:9	<b>challenge</b> 18:23 58:3 150:6	44:16,17,24 48:7 91:14
99:5 101:2,9 214:24	challenges 10:19 85:17	91:15 101:13 112:20
causation 96:4	173:13 178:23	chief's 92:4
cause 11:19 79:13 248:3	Chambers 241:12	child 83:14 152:5 153:2
caused 10:23	<b>chance</b> 47:6 72:13 90:15	155:17 179:15,16 199:4
causes 55:15	94:3 144:13 226:6	199:20,22 200:4,9 201:5
causing 107:7	<b>change</b> 16:22 22:21 23:14	201:16,20,21,21,22 213:9
caution 227:7	25:13 50:24 51:11 53:9	214:8
caveats 168:20	54:15 89:17 118:7 121:18	<b>children</b> 64:8 89:14,24
<b>cell</b> 204:24	127:16 149:13 165:4	115:12 116:2 118:22
cellular 218:2	169:5 199:12 212:15	124:5 142:24 175:20
Cemetery 188:11	216:9 235:20 243:3,19,20	177:6 203:5 232:5
<b>center</b> 48:14 49:2 51:13	246:11	childrens 156:11,12,13
55:5,11,16 56:15,17	<b>changed</b> 66:8 105:23	<b>choice</b> 35:9 205:10 206:15
58:12 142:22 172:20,21	116:15 184:14 188:12	216:6
173:11 174:24 196:15,21	192:21,23 195:8,8 208:21	<b>choices</b> 216:20 231:24
196:21 203:12 221:24	243:18,18	233:13
222:9 233:6 240:12 241:3	<b>changes</b> 22:12,24 25:6	Choppers 152:19
<b>centers</b> 68:2,3 152:21	51:17 57:8 69:11,18	<b>chosen</b> 143:4 146:21
181:8	87:10 116:17 170:12	Christ 167:6
<b>center-based</b> 176:22	178:2 183:10 203:14	Christensen 175:13
central 152:15 181:5	232:16,17,18 240:24	Chronic 179:19
<b>centuries</b> 208:3	243:4	church 149:7 234:19
<b>certain</b> 214:14 232:6	changing 8:10 212:10	churning 69:22
<b>certainly</b> 17:21 42:2 44:8	chaos 213:13	circumstances 216:9,19 cite 160:5
85:20 86:24 115:4 126:21	<b>chaplain</b> 69:20	cited 97:7
128:8,16,22 131:12 134:6 141:12 159:16 171:20	chapter 115:24 142:3 character 210:10	
223:7 226:6 227:19		<b>cities</b> 54:6,13 150:17,20 158:5 193:11
certainty 23:10 222:23	<b>charge</b> 51:16 56:24 105:10 214:23 215:4 236:24	<b>citizen</b> 47:20 102:7
228:7	charged 162:16 195:17	citizenry 162:14
certificates 163:19 198:17	196:6 207:2,4 209:2,7,7	citizens 4:19 47:18 48:3
224:7 225:14	charges 47:15	54:20 86:17 106:10
certified 80:15,17	<b>Charles</b> 240:21	134:10 143:24 151:23
•••• uneu 00.13,17		15 1.10 1 15.21 151.25

	, , ,	Page 256
162:14 178:15	115:4 228:24	181:15 187:18 193:7
citizen-based 54:18	closing 47:22 87:7	204:3 213:4 220:6,17
<b>city</b> 5:11 14:5 15:22 16:11	<b>clothes</b> 146:12	234:9 236:7,19,20,22
17:10,11 26:13 32:5	clothing 68:2	237:3,5 247:8
47:13,19 49:5 69:16	<b>coach</b> 73:7	<b>comes</b> 140:4 179:5 233:10
106:7 108:3 147:19	<b>coaching</b> 73:8 177:2	245:22
159:20 170:7 180:22	cocaine 188:7 194:12	<b>coming</b> 4:7 41:18 44:7,7
186:6 188:13 237:24	244:16	99:5 132:11 142:24
243:23 245:9 246:18	cochair 69:19	175:23 179:19 185:18
<b>civil</b> 49:3,7 50:22,22	<b>code</b> 59:2 68:23	189:24 193:13 215:15
196:22 199:6	<b>coerced</b> 190:22	221:13 229:24 230:23
claims 240:6	coffers 62:23	237:8 240:13
<b>class</b> 23:22,22 25:17 28:13	coherent 229:14	commanded 99:9
60:11,17 112:23 118:6,6	<b>cohort</b> 15:19	<b>commenced</b> 4:2 14:5
121:13 123:16,16,18	coincidentally 188:6	<b>commend</b> 34:4 197:10
<b>classes</b> 92:14 96:3 104:10	<b>Coleman</b> 2:12 88:14,16,17	236:8
classification 12:16,17	collaboration 12:20 130:2	commensurate 211:17
13:23	131:12 172:4 223:10	<b>comment</b> 43:17 81:23
classified 12:10	collaborative 33:12	158:24 164:23 165:8
classroom 213:18	collaboratively 56:20	171:20,21 182:12 238:11
<b>clean</b> 26:9 70:13 76:17	128:18 130:12 131:8	<b>commenting</b> 93:2 222:10
104:23 105:7,17 112:10	collateral 12:13	comments 6:20 112:15
112:13	<b>colleague</b> 31:13 126:21	115:10 222:18
<b>clear</b> 66:14,20 107:4	colleagues 133:4	commercials 231:2
109:13 150:10 207:17	<b>collect</b> 32:7 199:22	<b>commission</b> 1:3 2:1,2 3:1
227:8 228:6	collected 32:9	4:1,6,8 5:1 6:1,23 7:1,6
clearly 25:10 50:23 86:20	<b>collecting</b> 31:24 37:4	7:10,20 8:1 9:1,11 10:1
127:7 128:3 130:7 131:2	<b>collection</b> 31:19,23 32:21	10:16 11:1,16,22 12:1
132:24 139:13 187:9	93:4,8	13:1 14:1 15:1,9,13 16:1
188:24 192:19 212:5	<b>college</b> 175:3 209:20	17:1 18:1,11 19:1 20:1,17
<b>client</b> 176:20 178:9 202:22	219:20 233:8	20:21 21:1 22:1 23:1,20
clients 69:22 70:2 71:23	<b>color</b> 49:15 53:19	24:1 25:1,10 26:1 27:1
161:5 222:6 224:13 225:4	Colorado 201:6	28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1,15,21
climbing 224:9	colostomy 215:14	32:1 33:1,7,17 34:1,4
<b>clinic</b> 105:18	combination 139:19	35:1 36:1 37:1,7 38:1
clinical 128:11,12 130:8	combined 8:19 38:11	39:1,10,11 40:1,8,13 41:1
136:20	138:17	42:1 43:1 44:1,10 45:1,11
clinically 140:17	combining 94:15	45:13,18,20,21 46:1,5
clinicians 131:5	<b>come</b> 47:24 48:12,17 50:16	47:1 48:1,22 49:1 50:1
cliques 104:21	72:18 78:6,7 86:12 92:21	51:1,16,21 52:1,14 53:1
<b>close</b> 84:18 164:17 223:9	100:3 124:2 125:9 126:20	54:1 55:1 56:1 57:1 58:1
224:4	128:19 143:15 145:19	58:4 59:1,6 60:1 61:1
<b>closed</b> 147:10	147:17 148:20 154:23	62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1
closely 39:11 41:21 111:11	156:3 159:21 171:6 174:3	66:11,20 67:1 68:1 69:1
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		,

	,,,,,,,	
		Page 257
70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1	236:1 237:1 238:1,12	40:3 43:23 45:15 46:7,12
75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1 79:1	239:1 240:1,3 241:1	46:18 47:12 49:9 53:6
80:1 81:1 82:1,18 83:1	242:1 243:1 244:1 245:1	54:5,7,15,17,24 55:2,5,6
84:1,16 85:1,4 86:1 87:1	246:1 247:1 248:1	55:9,10 56:14,16,17
88:1,2,6 89:1 90:1 91:1	<b>commissioner</b> 2:3 5:3,4,5	57:14 65:11 67:11 68:11
92:1 93:1 94:1 95:1 96:1	5:18 6:12 7:4,4 17:2	71:15,20 72:7 73:12
97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1	20:15 21:11 33:6 43:15	74:22,24 76:16 84:9
101:1 102:1,2 103:1,22	45:5 48:21 82:16 92:12	85:11,24 93:10 105:20
104:1 105:1 106:1 107:1	95:16 112:6 126:8 137:10	107:17,21 109:18 130:16
107:10 108:1 109:1 110:1	189:23 245:22,23 246:4	132:16 136:3 142:22
111:1 112:1 113:1 114:1	commissioners 4:22 88:18	150:2 151:20,24 152:10
115:1 116:1,6,17 117:1	157:19 237:21	152:21 153:7 158:3,8
118:1 119:1 120:1,5	<b>Commission's</b> 7:8 56:24	162:3,8 163:14 164:19
121:1 122:1 123:1 124:1	118:3	165:9 172:21 173:9,11,13
125:1 126:1 127:1 128:1	<b>commit</b> 47:4	173:15,22 174:2,6,24
129:1 130:1 131:1 132:1	<b>commitment</b> 35:23 52:14	177:3,14 180:23 181:4,8
133:1 134:1 135:1 136:1	73:12 75:10 189:7	185:12 190:20 219:16,20
137:1 138:1 139:1 140:1	committed 54:22 85:22	222:24 223:6 225:12
141:1 142:1 143:1 144:1	100:24 109:13 118:16	226:3,15 228:14,19
145:1 146:1 147:1 148:1	134:18 194:5 210:18	229:17 233:8 240:18
149:1,12 150:1 151:1	217:18 223:17 228:3	community's 145:8
152:1 153:1 154:1 155:1	committee 33:23 59:2,2	community-based 15:6
156:1 157:1 158:1 159:1	67:16 69:3,20 212:9	49:5 86:9 102:17 104:7
159:3 160:1 161:1 162:1	242:5	180:16 219:10 222:5
163:1 164:1,9 165:1,15	committees 68:16	223:9 226:22
166:1 167:1 168:1 169:1	committing 101:8	compared 11:13
170:1 171:1 172:1 173:1	common 10:23 191:7	<b>COMPAS</b> 13:2,8,22 14:4,6
174:1 175:1 176:1 177:1	commonly 42:10	14:7 15:10,11,12 19:17
178:1 179:1 180:1 181:1	communication 84:6	compassion 186:10
182:1 183:1 184:1 185:1	153:17 177:9	<b>competencies</b> 80:9,9 180:8
186:1 187:1 188:1 189:1	communities 8:24 27:3,12	competitive 181:24
190:1 191:1 192:1 193:1	31:6 39:18,22 46:20,23	complain 108:3 154:22,23
194:1 195:1 196:1 197:1	49:11,15 54:9 55:14,18	complete 6:19 9:4 26:2
198:1 199:1 200:1 201:1	55:20,24 56:5,8,13 71:10	86:7 123:22 133:15
201:10 202:1 203:1,13	76:24 87:12 134:9 147:3	228:11
204:1 205:1 206:1 207:1	150:6,18 158:4 159:18,20	completed 14:10 248:11
208:1 209:1 210:1 211:1	161:23 162:17 185:22,22	completely 59:16
212:1 213:1 214:1 215:1	187:3,5 195:12 223:12	completing 9:17 42:4,5
216:1,12 217:1 218:1	229:9	completion 176:18
219:1 220:1,5 221:1	community 4:18,18,19 6:8	complex 48:2 89:17 159:11
222:1,11 223:1 224:1	6:21 7:18,22,24 8:7 9:2	complexities 44:5 45:16
225:1 226:1 227:1 228:1	10:8,10 11:18 18:21 19:3	complied 202:18
229:1,13 230:1 231:1	19:8,15 22:19 24:16	comply 101:4
232:1 233:1 234:1 235:1	27:19 30:9 36:16 39:14	components 25:2

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc.

11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

		Page 258
comprehend 233:24	confirmed 112:6	construct 61:16
comprehensive 84:16,20	conflicting 138:2	constructive 53:4
93:8 149:21 150:3 222:14	confrontational 154:17	consumed 39:7
<b>comprise</b> 62:15	confusing 110:14 217:11	consumer 197:3
comprised 38:18 104:22	<b>confusion</b> 107:8 154:19	<b>contact</b> 87:15 94:18,19
-		
compromise 59:18 compromises 212:4	congratulate 7:16 126:21 129:7	120:14 123:4,4 contacted 123:10
computer 156:3,7	congregations 158:10,14	contained 76:15
Comstock/Great 169:22	congregation-based 158:8	contemplate 32:17
conceivable 74:18	connected 72:12	contemplated 117:12
<b>concentrate</b> 71:10 127:4	Connecticut 212:7,9	contemplating 118:7
concentrated 76:23 129:19	connection 188:23 196:5	contend 55:4
concept 160:8	consciousness 49:11	contention 35:4
concepts 22:23 162:17	consent 25:18 209:5	context 12:13 14:22 57:9
concern 46:12 47:2,21	<b>consequence</b> 59:21 195:13	192:8
84:12 85:10 93:15 128:7	consequences 64:20 107:9	continual 13:13 159:13
128:23 142:15 143:14	110:19 111:9 205:17	continually 32:11
149:11 160:19 162:13	209:10,12 211:16	continuation 159:4
184:16	consider 28:22 29:8 51:22	<b>continue</b> 22:11 23:23 27:10
<b>concerned</b> 46:4 93:22	57:8,23 93:7 106:12	31:6 39:21 40:5,9 47:11
116:7 160:7 183:23 226:8	113:11 116:6 179:8 183:2	47:17,24 66:24 85:18
<b>concerns</b> 15:24 64:14	considerate 220:18	86:24 97:21 107:6 110:16
116:4 118:20 130:20	<b>consideration</b> 11:4 45:18	110:18 116:13,19 118:4
conclude 247:4	220:14	120:2 125:18 129:20
concluded 247:16	considered 52:19 116:21	135:7 155:16 232:16
concluding 195:9	118:14 181:23	236:17
conclusion 18:16	considering 111:22	continued 72:6 117:2,10
conclusions 85:2	considers 116:17	119:10 159:2 160:19
condense 99:2	<b>consist</b> 115:4	170:19 230:19 235:5
condition 159:6 215:20	consisted 176:5	continues 173:21
conditions 16:19 18:10	consistency 43:2	<b>continuing</b> 24:10 33:11
24:15,18 47:4,10 50:7,13	consistent 13:13 225:21,24	63:5 82:20 168:2 231:21
50:17 51:12 70:3 205:18	226:13	235:21
216:8	consistently 25:21	continuous 227:4
conducive 122:16	consisting 248:9	continuum 18:4
conduct 84:16 93:17	consists 83:23	contract 206:9
199:16	Consolidation 117:21	contracts 208:19
conducting 133:15	conspiracy 214:23	contradictory 222:16
conference 242:4	constant 44:22 111:19	contrast 188:19 194:18
confessions 93:19	Constantine 189:22	contribute 151:23
confidence 231:11	constantly 27:2	contributing 27:16 53:5
<b>confidential</b> 204:19 206:11	constituency 71:17	70:11
confined 49:24	constitutional 240:4	contributions 51:5 223:24
confining 61:18	constraints 160:4	contributors 72:19

		Page 259
<b>control</b> 83:9 213:21	124:24 183:6	courses 26:4 209:20
<b>controlled</b> 26:23 85:20	Cortland 158:12	<b>court</b> 9:16,22 11:10 17:24
215:5	<b>cost</b> 18:20 19:5 62:23	18:9,19 25:20,23 28:4,17
conundrum 119:23	68:24 74:10 138:23	29:18 30:3,6,7,15,21
convention 240:4	140:21 179:10 228:3	41:22,23 78:10,11,14
conventional 178:6	costly 7:24 19:4	88:22 98:10,11 122:23
convent/rectory 68:4	<b>costs</b> 61:15 62:3,22 63:2	123:8,9 130:22 161:6,24
conversation 214:24	131:18,19 179:5,8	162:8 191:17,17 199:11
Conversely 22:23	cost/benefit 100:6	199:17 201:13 207:16,18
convicted 8:4 16:10 41:2	Council 34:2	207:22 208:7 210:5 211:5
47:5 60:16 61:5 62:7,9	councils 154:18	211:18 215:13 240:6
188:16,21 189:13 194:21	<b>counsel</b> 5:3 58:18,19 248:4	243:7
219:6	counseling 65:17,17 72:10	<b>Courtney</b> 2:17 172:20
<b>conviction</b> 25:9,16 28:13	176:24 219:16	173:4,7
28:14 31:23 86:5 98:17	counselors 123:3	courtroom 241:7
192:7,8 217:4	counterparts 132:14,15	<b>courts</b> 9:6,9 26:15 32:10
convictions 93:21 215:7	<b>counties</b> 13:6 26:14 27:24	123:4,5 127:14 143:21
216:8	28:24,24 29:4,22 30:23	161:21 162:3 164:5 199:9
convince 190:24	31:10 32:3,12 102:21	210:23 211:5,9,22
cooccurring 69:24	111:11 207:16 223:2	<b>cover</b> 34:11 36:12 80:10
cooperation 168:2 170:19	countries 186:13	86:10 239:22 245:3
coordinate 70:17	<b>country</b> 17:15 35:8 44:4,18	covered 34:22
coordinated 102:12	54:6 60:7 62:14 84:4	Coxsackie 169:15
<b>coordination</b> 127:10 130:2	127:19 133:6 242:2	Co-chair 2:3
<b>copies</b> 4:12 6:19 15:13 21:5	<b>county</b> 5:19 13:24 15:22	crack 99:4,15 188:7 189:2
165:13	29:10,21,24 30:2,10,16	191:20 194:12 244:13
copresident 221:19	32:5 33:15 35:15 36:9	cracks 77:17
<b>cops</b> 143:21 245:21	43:21 44:8 54:19 66:7	Craft 142:9,16
<b>copy</b> 10:17 11:4 77:9	72:18 90:8,12,21 92:2	crafted 101:4
<b>core</b> 56:18	98:10 100:2 102:16,24	<b>crazy</b> 219:2
cornerstone 14:14	106:11,13,15,16 108:19	create 52:8 56:9 104:20
<b>correct</b> 86:4 114:5	108:24 109:8,12,14,20	184:11
correction 7:19,22 8:7	110:3,5,22 111:6 113:24	created 24:21 69:8 89:21
13:15 84:9 169:15 197:8	114:13,21 115:5 130:6	creates 107:15
226:21	132:20 154:18 187:22	creating 96:17 107:8,13
<b>correctional</b> 6:7,15 29:16	191:16 194:22,23 199:3	creation 223:10
51:3 65:6 82:24 83:3,15	221:21 222:2 223:5,6,17	creative 175:10,21
102:11,13 104:21 118:24	224:2 228:20 234:24	creativity 68:14
119:18 130:3 134:2	county's 110:2 222:22	<b>Credico</b> 3:4 220:24 237:14
158:17 171:24 215:22	<b>couple</b> 34:15,21 91:22 97:4	237:15,18,20 238:2
231:19	123:10 168:24 239:23	246:16,19,23 247:2
<b>corrections</b> 11:18 16:15	coupled 26:14	cries 213:17
17:11 20:2 23:12 86:14	course 7:18 90:7 133:7	crime 22:9,14 23:17 24:14
108:19 111:17 121:24	159:5 204:21	33:2 44:22,23,23 45:24
	1	

		-
[		Page 260
46:2 52:5 54:9 55:15 56:4	culinary 79:15	156:5 183:8 189:23
56:22 58:2 76:15 85:7,22	culpability 208:12 211:17	191:20 194:13 213:24
112:3 115:22 117:2,5,18	211:19	224:15 236:10 241:4
117:22 120:2 151:13	cultivated 111:21,21	243:6 245:10
162:10,16 184:15 186:13	culturating 79:9	days 89:5 143:13 167:10
188:17 189:4,17 190:4	<b>culture</b> 146:17 153:5	167:11 193:18 194:16
192:9 194:9 196:6 204:9	cumbersome 32:2	197:19 198:4 225:2
210:14 222:20 233:23	CURE-NY 149:16,18	235:11 239:23
239:20	current 11:12,22 12:15	day-to-day 128:6
crimes 23:23 29:13,15	14:21 23:21 24:21 32:20	deacon 170:6
94:21 100:24 101:9	57:11 60:23 68:23 69:7	deadly 196:5
107:20 110:8,14 111:5	82:21 109:17 144:14	<b>deal</b> 24:13 66:7 83:12,13
116:15 118:8,10,16	161:2 173:17 191:14	135:2 184:7,20 188:9
186:12 210:19 211:15	199:14,19 227:21 240:6	213:18 240:11 247:13
217:19 234:6 241:18	currently 14:2 56:16 108:2	<b>dealer</b> 99:8 192:18 194:10
criminal 1:2 20:24 22:10	174:9 219:19	dealers 26:21 27:2,8,10
22:18 27:3 35:17 49:4,7	custodial 202:2	46:10 83:13 85:21 190:2
49:13 50:20 51:6,18 52:5	custody 83:9 148:3 206:2,4	190:8,16 191:22 192:12
54:18,22 55:23 59:3 64:5	212:2	195:10 244:21
67:4 77:16 85:9 91:7 92:9	<b>customs</b> 245:24	dealer's 46:8
92:15 93:9 94:2,8,20	cutbacks 74:5	dealing 27:4 80:12 85:17
97:22 98:10 117:20 120:3	<b>Cy</b> 5:10	114:18 191:23 192:13
121:3,17 126:11 127:6,13	cycle 175:19 177:3	194:23 227:22
128:10 133:5 136:23	<b>Cyrus</b> 2:6	deals 54:4 193:23 194:24
140:5 143:16 162:20	Cyrus 2.0	dealt 113:24 192:12
166:20 172:2 177:7	D	death 144:20,21 208:10
205:21 207:13,21 209:2	dad 73:15	216:2
210:2 215:5 216:8 218:4	daily 128:5 131:22	debate 131:18 190:11
219:22 222:6 223:6	damage 49:16	192:21 193:3
234:22 243:13 245:4	dangerous 149:23 192:17	debates 55:11
criminals 93:14 243:2	dared 106:12	
	<b>Darius</b> 244:10,20	<b>debilitating</b> 49:13 <b>debt</b> 47:8 203:7
<b>criminogenic</b> 226:10	data 20:3 226:17	decades 112:17 184:2
crisis 159:16,19 185:20 224:22	date 1:10 14:7 119:7	
	248:15	decarceration 57:10 deceased 117:6
critical 9:15 16:21 24:17	dated 10:15 12:17	
24:24 31:21 71:4 83:7	dates 247:9	<b>December</b> 41:18 59:19
<b>criticism</b> 111:19	daughter 244:15	<b>decide</b> 133:10 217:9 220:6
criticized 108:20	David 3:6,6 20:6,7 60:5	decision 116:23 117:11
crossroads 36:3	90:8 145:22	118:6 138:10 204:16
crowd 19:23	<b>Davis</b> 52:18	205:13,15 210:6
Crowe 243:11	day 26:6 45:8 78:11 83:17	decisionmaking 96:10
crucial 57:7 84:12	90:24 105:12 127:20	decisions 128:11,13 207:7
<b>crude</b> 150:11		208:17 216:16 233:14
<b>cruel</b> 208:11	139:11,12 143:13 145:19	declining 189:17
L		

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1	Page 261
decrease 22:5	118:24 119:17 121:24	detriment 62:21
dedicated 30:21 58:12	124:23,23 164:8 167:8	devastation 46:8,15
105:19,19	171:24,24 175:17 197:23	develop 56:14,16 71:13
dedication 33:8	224:11 245:24	79:4 80:10 96:10 103:18
deeply 53:11	departments 9:3,15 10:3,7	110:12 180:3,5,7 181:13
defeated 69:4	11:9 12:21 13:19 14:9	181:16 219:23
<b>defend</b> 213:10	15:16,21 16:14	developed 52:24 54:18
defendant 23:11 115:17	dependence 11:18	71:16 163:13 200:21
211:18 241:11	<b>dependency</b> 57:19 143:8	229:11
defendants 25:21 28:4,8	143:16 155:7 163:9	developer 145:24
150:14	depends 66:6	<b>developing</b> 15:3 69:14
defender-based 10:10	depressed 161:13	113:12 177:16 208:6
<b>defense</b> 25:18 26:18 51:4	depression 234:5	development 14:23 17:9,13
160:23 161:5,7	depth 222:11	17:13 41:15 42:6 52:22
deficiencies 210:10	<b>deputy</b> 5:3,4 7:5	54:5 68:17 96:8 104:6
deficit 78:13	derived 14:15 113:4	153:9,10 163:5 164:21
<b>definitely</b> 95:3 115:2 179:5	describing 17:23 18:3	174:17 175:18 176:2
179:10 182:4,5 243:3	<b>deserve</b> 232:11	177:9 178:13
245:5	designed 85:16 175:17	devil's 152:24
definitive 32:3	235:22	Diallo 246:9
<b>degree</b> 23:10 208:14 215:6	desire 31:8 119:16 236:16	dictate 205:13
deinstitutionalization	desperately 182:19	<b>die</b> 96:23 214:7
69:19	despite 27:14 30:22 31:7	<b>died</b> 215:12
delegates 4:22	32:7 44:21 209:17 224:10	<b>differ</b> 16:17
deliberations 33:18	destitute 99:4	difference 106:24 107:18
delinquents 9:20	destroy 46:13 185:21	107:19 108:13 109:7
delivers 104:12	destroyed 185:23	114:11,15 137:2 169:7
delivery 65:14 226:19	destruction 50:20 53:18	223:15
227:4	<b>destructive</b> 49:17 186:3	differences 168:21
demand 69:5 78:17 101:3	detailed 11:6,8 15:22 65:4	different 4:17 27:17 54:3
129:15 134:9,9,11	84:13 163:21 224:18	70:10,10 79:18 86:12,13
denied 114:21 121:15	deterioration 46:19	86:14 92:10 94:15 121:23
123:12,13 D	determinant 94:14,24	124:11 141:9 146:11,12
<b>Denise</b> 2:3 4:4 5:9 7:5	95:12,20 98:12 116:9	154:24 168:23 182:16
126:17 128:9 129:21	determinate 23:6,7,8,15	206:17 231:3,14 233:17
134:17 Derived a 127-24	24:11 118:7	244:4
<b>Denise's</b> 137:24	determination 24:17	differential 12:6,18
Dennison 112:6	197:14 201:13 211:8	differently 89:5 97:17
deny 124:18 denying 108:16 113:4	<b>determine</b> 98:12 131:5 140:18	99:19 228:22 229:5 difficult 19:4 90:13 117:24
denying 108:16 113:4 department 6:6 8:15 14:5	determined 50:19 161:11	118:17 122:10 191:2
17:12 19:24 33:16 44:16	179:12	210:4 233:20 235:7
65:6 80:16 91:15 92:3	determining 54:21	difficulty 75:4 237:9
102:11 106:19 111:16	detoxes 105:16	dignity 73:4 237.9
102.11 100.17 111.10	uctuates 105.10	uiginity / J. T

		Page 262
dilutes 226:7	disparity 66:5	42:21 45:12 77:5 82:2,6
diminished 208:13 211:19	dispositions 8:5 98:21	92:19,20 101:9 135:6
Dinkins 145:22	disproportionally 49:24	144:22 146:19 149:19
<b>diocese</b> 169:21	disproportionate 57:21	151:15 152:7 154:10
diploma 64:6	184:15	166:19,21 167:6 168:7,7
diplomas 225:14	dispute 133:7	171:8 219:7 235:12
direct 171:20 173:19	disservice 232:13	242:19 244:10 245:19,19
direction 88:6 213:11	dissimilar 104:19	dollar 87:2 108:11 131:16
directions 175:4	distinguish 109:18	dollars 38:21,23,24 62:24
directive 197:22	distinguished 116:5 126:9	63:4 111:16 127:23 145:7
directly 25:20 49:9 51:6	187:21	146:16 179:18 202:24
59:2 87:11 104:13 116:24	distinguishing 203:9	domestic 38:5
178:12 188:18 211:5	distributed 157:11	dominant 53:22
director 6:6,14 7:8 19:13	distributing 32:12	donation 68:3
34:17 35:15 49:2 144:4	district 5:17,18 20:12,19	door 223:3
173:8	21:8 27:2,7,18 29:2,5,8	dorms 167:22
disability 197:3 198:2	30:10,14,18,19,23 31:11	Dorsman 246:7
203:2	33:10 39:24 54:19 58:23	<b>double</b> 64:10
disabled 202:24	60:15 90:8 93:2 138:2	doubled 25:8
disadvantage 23:18 207:14	161:8,11 185:11 187:17	doubt 158:20
disadvantages 76:23	187:21 207:5 240:14,21	<b>Downstate</b> 146:5 180:19
disagree 84:21 140:11	district's 198:2	182:19
Disappeared 244:7	distrust 213:14	downward 199:13 200:24
disappointed 235:3	diverse 105:3	downwardly 199:20
disassociate 104:24	diversion 56:10	<b>DP70</b> 12:17
disaster 190:17	diversity 229:7	dragged 152:4
discarded 51:9	diverted 162:3	drainage 215:14
disconnected 35:20	<b>divide</b> 104:17	dramatically 188:12
discontinued 209:19	<b>dividing</b> 26:21	drastic 51:17 draw 103:15
discourse 57:11 discretion 190:17 216:10	<b>Division</b> 1:2 5:8 6:6,14	draw 103.13 dream 52:20
discriminate 192:11	24:4,9 84:3 92:14 111:3 111:17 119:4	dreams 233:8
discrimination 164:10	doable 42:3,3,12	drive 34:24 42:6,12 217:24
discuss 81:12 87:9 204:20	<b>DOCS</b> 5:4 38:19 65:7	237:23
discussed 97:23 128:8,9	72:17 103:6 104:5,12	<b>driven</b> 200:17
discussing 46:5	111:3,6 122:14 146:6	driver's 200:7 208:22
discussion 23:4 26:21 34:8	doctor 204:12,20	217:24
discussions 25:11 206:11	document 9:8 42:23,24	driving 208:22 246:18
disease 204:21	198:10	drop 152:16
disenfranchisement 19:2	documentary 245:20	drove 245:7
disinformation 238:21	documented 50:23	drug 10:11 15:6 17:24 25:3
dismal 67:5	documents 15:9 198:19	25:6,12,14,20 26:4,13,15
dismiss 104:3 202:13	<b>dog</b> 218:6,6	27:4,8,10,14,17,19,20,21
disparate 10:20	doing 17:7 21:15,23 36:18	28:4,5,9,17 29:18 30:3,6
*		

		Page 26.
30:7,15,21 31:5 46:6,8,22	187:20 188:5,16 190:5,11	effect 15:6 104:4 168:3
57:6,16 59:9,11,16,20	191:8 241:8	216:23
60:11,17 61:5,6,8,14,17	<b>D.A.s</b> 28:16 29:12 31:2	effected 116:16
61:21,23 62:2,3,5,8,10,16	33:4 138:14 188:21	effective 7:24 11:20 18:6
62:20,21 63:2,9,12,24	<b>D.C</b> 32:11	50:24 57:24 62:19 171:9
64:3,17,21 65:23 66:2,6	<b>D.C.J.S</b> 4:12 15:20 27:23	177:16,17 179:10 192:3
66:15 67:3,4 83:13 85:20	32:5 96:4 183:6 226:11	195:14 219:23
86:5 99:8 121:4,13 126:6	229:2	effectively 18:20 56:2
129:11 134:22,24 140:4	<b>D.N.A</b> 31:19,23 32:7,9,13	198:19 225:16
140:23,23 141:5,6 150:8	32:16,24 37:4 93:4,8,18	effectiveness 15:6 104:14
158:18 159:21 161:20	93:24	228:8
162:7 163:17 165:2 177:5	<b>D.P.C.A</b> 10:4 11:7 12:20	effects 96:15 168:23
184:3,10,13 185:18	12:24 13:17,23 15:11,15	efficient 119:21
186:21 188:18 190:2,3,8	15:23 16:13 D W L2(-22 28:5	effort 178:12 224:2 247:8
190:16 191:4,12,16,17,22	<b>D.W.I</b> 36:22 38:5	efforts 7:3 31:6 32:7 54:13
192:6,7,18,18,22 193:5	E	56:18 65:21 67:13 68:17
193:12,23 194:15,23,24	E 2:3	75:7 82:20 129:19 135:8
195:10,17,18,21 196:5,6	earlier 21:6 31:15 33:17	149:9 163:21 175:9
214:19,23 215:17 216:7	46:21 51:12 66:5 89:7	216:24 225:22
216:13 230:20,21 231:5	95:17 165:15 166:22	egregious 118:4
231:20 234:10 240:23		<b>eight</b> 61:10 62:17,23 124:4
241:18 243:3,5	167:4 187:18,19 194:8 earliest 19:7	145:7 146:16 166:10,11
<b>drugs</b> 25:9 62:13 76:10		189:15 214:22 238:13
129:3 147:21 155:10	early 7:22 11:7 53:9 97:10	239:7
163:2 178:21,24 188:10	160:13 163:3	eighteen 37:17,18,23
188:24 194:3 215:2	easier 69:15 119:19	105:17 174:8 205:23
drug-free 144:21 145:18	easily 41:13 90:20	208:10,16 211:14 212:10
<b>DTAP</b> 26:13 28:4 191:5	East 146:9	212:16 231:10 234:2,2
<b>Duane</b> 58:18,20,22 59:9	eat 154:13 213:15	eighteen-year-old 244:15
60:6,9 63:11 64:13 66:13	economic 16:19 52:7 53:12	<b>eighty</b> 28:2 62:6
66:19	69:5 164:20	eighty-five 63:15 150:20
<b>Duane's</b> 58:16 64:23	economical 150:5	Eighty-four 63:20
dubbed 99:2	economy 200:17	eighty-nine 210:12
due 207:5	Ed 240:20	eighty-two 63:24 105:5
duly 248:6	Edgecombe 132:2	eight-year 239:12
<b>Durham</b> 3:3 212:21 213:4	<b>educate</b> 111:14	either 117:20 166:4,9
220:23 230:6,9,12,15,16	education 57:15 104:5	167:9 188:18 198:10
230:18 237:13	114:8,17 122:13 162:4,6	201:24 222:8
Dutchess 13:24	163:9 177:8 179:21	<b>Elba</b> 243:23
duties 35:20 39:7	209:18 225:12 233:9	election 154:21
dying 214:13 244:14 246:6	235:21,21	electricians 143:2
dysfunctional 186:2,20	educational 4:18 63:6 65:8	elevator 76:12,13
<b>D.A</b> 20:13 29:10 30:24	80:23 89:15 114:24	eleven 8:21 61:22 96:21
33:14 139:20,22 187:20	176:24 209:17 233:6	223:16 244:10,10,13

Page	264
1 age	207

		Page 26
eligibility 104:8 197:14	encourage 56:13 94:5	entrance 181:13
224:15	119:3 163:11 164:8	environment 72:15 85:20
eliminate 25:15 59:14 60:3	encouraged 95:9 118:22	139:6
eliminated 25:7	234:9	equal 103:24
elimination 27:7	encouraging 72:11 95:6	equally 22:12
emanating 50:20	178:8 232:15	equate 192:8 210:7
embedded 53:11	ended 142:23 143:11 145:6	era 223:3
embrace 28:16	endorse 158:17 191:9	eradicate 27:3
embraced 234:8	<b>endure</b> 224:15	Erie 44:7 130:6
emotional 89:15 97:3	energies 56:22	especially 29:6 59:8 73:13
122:10	enforce 18:9	76:14,24 78:10 79:16
emphasis 146:24	enforced 117:15	86:22 93:15 205:18
emphasizing 8:6	<b>enforcement</b> 4:19 32:15	212:12 224:21 225:13
<b>Empire</b> 1:13 172:19	45:15,19,24 46:7,17	233:17
196:15,20 203:12	50:12 54:7 56:3,15 65:24	<b>Esq</b> 2:4,5,6,6
empirical 14:15	83:8 87:3 92:7 98:7	<b>essence</b> 103:20
employ 102:22	117:24 136:3	essential 19:3 85:19 164:19
employed 73:6 79:20 84:3	enforcing 85:6 203:8	180:14
105:6 209:24	<b>engage</b> 30:8,20 71:22	essentially 42:9 138:3
employees 101:14	engaged 30:12 45:2	establish 228:5
employer 80:13 162:21	engaging 71:6,18	established 117:14 188:24
164:13	enhance 8:8 85:8	224:11
employers 164:10 197:8	enhanced 196:8	establishing 24:15 85:3
219:18	<b>enjoy</b> 73:3 76:21	224:14
employment 16:16,17,19	enjoyed 22:5	<b>et</b> 127:14
16:21 17:4 18:22 69:10	enlist 208:20	ethical 187:12
70:14 71:2 78:3,23 79:3	<b>enormous</b> 7:12 90:16	evaluation 23:3,4 41:4
80:6,13 130:14 163:9	159:22 160:2	84:13 200:23 227:2,10
164:6,7,12,14 176:19,21	enormously 146:24	Evangelist 149:4 171:21
179:17 197:5,7 210:4	enrolled 233:6	evening 149:8 167:10
225:11,18	enrollment 224:12	event 223:21,22
Employment/vocational	enslave 58:4	events 72:5 76:21
65:15	enslaved 49:24	eventually 89:23 110:12
empower 15:4,5 53:4	ensure 11:19 13:12 15:18	116:10 145:21
144:10	24:4 78:2 164:13 224:19	everybody 113:11 134:15
empowering 143:5 158:3	ensuring 229:3	137:12 189:12,14 191:21
empowerment 56:23	enter 202:9	192:15,17 218:24
enables 71:13	enterprise 196:5	everyday 85:18
enabling 236:22	entertain 51:22 57:5	everything's 239:23
enact 59:23 60:10	entirely 124:10	evidence 12:23 208:9
enacted 60:15 61:3 66:21	entities 128:10 223:20	226:24
enacting 66:24 85:6	entitled 11:5 201:21	evidence-based 13:3 14:14
encompassing 159:12	entity 89:12 131:20,21	19:18 95:9,14 162:11
Encounter 167:5	133:8	222:20 227:8
	1	

Page	265
1 age	20.

		Page 265
evolved 222:16 228:23	expenses 61:17	facilitate 118:9 164:5
exacerbated 18:24	expensive 158:21 227:23	facilities 29:16 70:16 84:2
exacerbates 50:12	<b>experience</b> 53:2 68:9 79:10	102:13 104:22 133:20
exact 194:19	80:19 89:14 93:6 95:12	134:3 136:16 170:14
exactly 205:19	142:16 143:16 160:9	181:13 209:15 215:23
exalt 155:13	162:8 169:2 176:11 205:8	225:8 226:21
examination 84:19 164:11	207:12 211:6 214:21	facility 105:14 114:22
examine 7:20	222:8,22 230:20 231:12	123:11 130:3 133:14,16
<b>example</b> 29:24 75:21 97:13	233:21 235:2	134:16 144:2,5 145:5
98:20 130:22 139:12	<b>experienced</b> 139:17 145:5	147:10,18 148:4 173:10
160:21 162:22 176:22	161:7	231:19
186:16 194:11 200:19	<b>experiences</b> 72:12,24,24	facing 26:5 59:13 173:13
202:12 240:19	86:13 103:6	fact 8:6 16:7 17:9 26:4
examples 72:21 97:4 113:9	experiment 149:23	29:20 41:17 43:20 92:11
exceeds 38:11 111:2	expertise 26:17	96:9 106:15,17 109:6
exception 50:12 241:13	expired 107:7	125:8 129:4 133:24 134:2
excerpt 35:13	<b>explain</b> 154:6 217:13	134:21 147:12 167:7
excessive 245:11	explained 89:16	169:10 189:5 192:12
<b>excuse</b> 18:14 41:12 81:17	express 116:3	198:9 199:6 201:3 206:23
98:23 101:5 175:5 181:14	<b>extend</b> 103:24	209:17 212:5 241:2
205:23 206:16 233:22	<b>extended</b> 75:7 191:19	<b>factor</b> 16:22
<b>executed</b> 188:10 189:10	<b>extensive</b> 49:16 170:8	factored 227:14
<b>executive</b> 5:4,7 7:8 36:6	222:5	factory 240:7
45:12,17 49:2 85:5 144:4	extensively 129:21	facts 28:22 128:24 129:14
exercised 65:19	extent 22:20 110:16,19	134:20
exhaust 155:13	111:12	<b>fail</b> 198:16
<b>exist</b> 12:3 105:10	external 180:5	<b>failed</b> 51:10
existence 159:3	<b>extra</b> 108:12	failings 210:8
existing 32:17 57:4 85:6	extraordinary 7:3	fails 211:10
173:15	extreme 155:4	<b>failure</b> 25:24,24 50:17 67:5
exists 210:9	extremely 32:2 42:20,22	74:22 165:3
exonerate 33:2	95:23 207:17	failures 174:23 177:24
exorbitantly 158:21	ex-girlfriend 86:3	229:4
expand 29:17 31:11 68:11	ex-offender 105:19	fair 49:6 149:13 201:14
131:14,24 132:19,21	<b>ex-offenders</b> 70:24 71:3,11	<b>fairly</b> 41:16
expanded 35:20 131:15	80:19 102:22	fairness 118:9 161:19
163:15		faith 171:15 217:2 223:8
expanding 104:8 126:12	F	226:21
expansion 95:22	<b>fabric</b> 246:11	faith-based 71:20 158:2
expected 30:8 216:3	<b>face</b> 44:6 79:6 144:20,21	166:24 167:16,19,22
expedated 224:10	146:8 179:14,23 196:7	168:5 170:3,4,13,20
expedient 140:19	205:20 214:9 231:2	172:3,4
expedited 224:10	240:16,16	fall 77:17 90:6 98:13
<b>expense</b> 87:3 179:7	faced 145:8 196:7	123:16 177:10
•		

	· · · ·	Page 266
falls 158:12	144:13	fight 62:19
false 93:19	feels 35:16 87:4 107:22	fights 213:16
falsely 110:4	fellowship 72:9 105:3	figure 61:22
familiar 79:19 127:18	<b>felon</b> 108:10 112:11 219:6	filed 201:2
families 9:23 46:12 49:15	felonies 25:12 31:24 47:16	files 201:10
52:12 65:18 66:19 71:14	60:17 107:21,23 118:6	<b>fill</b> 161:4
87:12 88:15 89:13,22,24	209:3	filled 190:15
90:2,6,11,18,22 91:3,6,7	<b>felons</b> 8:21 38:15 102:15	filling 242:8
116:4,16,18 118:17,19,23	104:10 106:8 108:7	final 40:10 51:24 198:24
119:11,20 122:16 150:13	112:19,21,24 113:2,5,13	212:6
155:6 160:2 162:16	191:17 195:11 197:6	finally 65:18 66:23 91:5
176:15,15 178:22 184:7	felony 8:4,21 16:2,10 25:17	98:16 130:4 136:22
186:10	28:6,8,13,14 46:6,22 62:7	195:15 228:15,17 235:18
family 9:16,21 11:10 18:22	62:10 89:2 110:20,21	<b>financial</b> 46:11 150:14
53:5 89:10 90:14 108:10	153:12 215:6,7 217:4	162:2 199:15
116:24 117:6 125:7	218:18	find 35:10 54:11 90:6 91:3
155:14 163:13 175:17	felt 108:4 214:2	99:20 110:18,24 124:24
176:23 178:5,9 179:14	females 49:23	136:8 152:16 153:3
207:18,22 211:5 218:3,5	fend 213:14	154:12,16 179:7,16 210:4
219:15,18 221:24 222:9	Ferguson 246:9	218:14,19,22 219:24
225:11 233:11 234:17,18	fertile 27:5	225:3
family's 90:16	fewer 22:14 27:8 46:2	<b>finding</b> 39:15 94:13 118:3
famous 143:3	field 6:8 121:3 139:17	191:7 218:16
far 4:15 19:4 27:17 46:7,15	146:6 181:24	findings 98:14
86:18 106:7 143:23	<b>fifteen</b> 6:19 25:4 35:18	<b>finds</b> 36:3
178:18 193:15 234:10	36:15 39:6 106:13 121:14	fingerprints 32:23
fascinating 129:7	168:14 185:14 195:5,7	finish 47:9
fashion 190:20	225:2 242:17	firmly 46:21 87:10
father 67:9,10 81:13,20	fifteenth 121:14	<b>first</b> 7:3,15 9:24 21:14 23:5
82:10 167:3 235:13	<b>fifth</b> 21:20	26:24 45:10 52:2 91:2
239:11,18	fifty 8:20 9:16 14:8 16:9	92:2 106:16 115:23
fatherless 177:6	35:23 37:21 49:20 77:5,7	129:23 131:8 142:23
fathers 175:21	81:15 82:2 109:11 134:21	143:9,10 158:15 188:6
father's 238:5	152:12 158:13 169:17	190:11 194:23 204:15
Faust 220:23	176:3,6 223:19 224:4	216:15 218:16 222:10
favor 124:22	244:3	223:11 230:22 231:10
<b>fear</b> 114:17	<b>fifty-five</b> 13:6 105:6 147:19	237:5 238:10,17 240:2
<b>federal</b> 88:22 149:15 150:4	147:23 188:17	246:12
150:4 151:15 196:3 202:7	<b>fifty-four</b> 38:21 62:8 105:4	first-time 60:4 195:16
feedback 4:9	fifty-seven 61:12	<b>Fischer</b> 5:5 129:22 133:21
<b>feeding</b> 154:15	fifty-six 64:7	<b>five</b> 10:13 14:10 29:5,15
feel 37:16 72:14 77:6,18	fifty-thousand-dollar	37:22 38:21 47:14 61:10
85:20 87:14 101:7 217:12	195:23	61:10,11,16,18,24 63:16
feeling 72:9 74:23 138:23	fifty-three 68:5	189:11 232:21

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc.

fixed 57:22form 32:4 78:3 119:14frame 5:21fixtures 53:15formal 175:8,24 176:10Franklin 29:10,21 30:2,Flanagan 2:12 82:13,15179:22132:20s3:2 87:18,19 88:4,8,12former 105:13 112:6 197:6free 26:9 87:14 105:10Fleishman 2:16 157:7,9,14formerly 67:12 103:7,14154:14157:17,20,21 165:7,18164:10freedom 123:24	16
fixtures 53:15formal 175:8,24 176:10Franklin 29:10,21 30:2,Flanagan 2:12 82:13,15179:22132:2083:2 87:18,19 88:4,8,12former 105:13 112:6 197:6free 26:9 87:14 105:10Fleishman 2:16 157:7,9,14formerly 67:12 103:7,14154:14	16
Flanagan 2:12 82:13,15 83:2 87:18,19 88:4,8,12179:22 former 105:13 112:6 197:6 formerly 67:12 103:7,14132:20 free 26:9 87:14 105:10 154:14	
83:2 87:18,19 88:4,8,12former 105:13 112:6 197:6free 26:9 87:14 105:10Fleishman 2:16 157:7,9,14formerly 67:12 103:7,14154:14	
Fleishman 2:16 157:7,9,14formerly 67:12 103:7,14154:14	
flexibility 95:3 170:14 formulate 23:13 32:6 Freeing 24:20	
flipping 77:11 229:14 freely 229:3	
<b>FLOOR</b> 20:7 142:5 <b>forth</b> 11:14 24:9 135:23 <b>frequently</b> 94:8,17,18	
Florida 167:22         147:2 160:20 169:5         fresh 152:18,20	
<b>flourishing</b> 52:10 <b>forty</b> 8:4 105:5 191:21 <b>friend</b> 35:14 146:5	
flow 224:18 244:2 friends 156:4	
fly 188:4 forty-eight 67:19 81:15 frightened 161:13	
focus 11:15 45:9 56:21 forty-five 14:9 39:4 63:3 front 124:17 135:21 192	:24
84:11,22 187:4 198:21 63:20 197:19 198:3 <b>front-line</b> 173:19	
222:18 225:22 224:15 <b>frustrated</b> 77:6	
<b>focused</b> 196:23 <b>forty-five-day</b> 197:16 <b>frustration</b> 81:16 214:9	
<b>focuses</b> 197:2 <b>forty-nine</b> 69:21 210:21 <b>fueled</b> 46:10	
focusing 79:2         forty-one 193:4 195:2         full 45:18 47:7 60:18 98	:5
folk 74:18 79:13forty-six 37:2299:6 104:16 105:8 141	:3
folks         17:15         78:5         129:16         forty-two         10:12         141:4         164:13	
180:21forum 220:11fully 13:5 14:2,16 85:2	
follow 37:11 42:22 85:13forward 33:11 134:1296:10 163:12 227:9	
137:24       148:15       210:3       144:13       172:5       full-fledged       30:20	
followed 175:4 210:19         fosters 72:8         full-service 65:14	
following 49:21 51:22fought 120:2 145:24full-time 30:21 219:19	
65:15 161:3 179:13found 21:16 28:3 92:20Fulton 35:15	
<b>236:23 106:2,6 108:6,23 168:10 function</b> 9:3,16 36:6 53:	22
food 152:18,20 154:14178:22 188:8 194:2functioning 163:19	_
foolish 87:5         208:12         functions 11:11	
force 21:12 56:2 60:18         foundation 71:6 72:8         fund 31:9 35:23 51:4 23	8:3
115:22     142:20     149:5,6     177:20       fundamental     187:2	_
157:24       166:18,22       222:2       foundational       228:23       funded       36:8       50:4       65:7	_
223:5,11,20 224:3,12,13 <b>founder</b> 74:15 227:9	<b>A</b> 1
<b>225:4 four</b> 7:7 12:11 25:5 29:12 <b>funding</b> 10:4 12:7 28:18	,21
forced 178:21         38:22 49:19 55:19 61:24         29:19 37:15 38:17,19           6         21 (22 20) 21 22         21 (22 20) 21 22         21 (22 20) 21 22	
forces 221:22 228:21,22       63:16 79:21 95:18 122:18       41:6 43:12 60:21,22 74         forces 221:22 228:21,22       161:24 180 8 15 100 7       104:5 175 8 181 24	1:4
forecast 86:23         161:24 189:8,15 190:7         104:5 175:8 181:24           forecast 86:23         200.5 0 200.4 215 10 17         forecast 86:23	_
foregoing 248:3,8         200:5,9 209:4 215:10,17         funds 131:16           foregot 84:7         fourteen 64:0 06:24 102:21         funny 214:11	
forest 84:7         fourteen 64:9 96:24 102:21         funny 214:11           forest 01:5         fourth 56:8 93:15         furlough 86:2 121:16	
forever 91:5fourth 56:8 83:15furlough 86:2 121:16forget 46:16 85:23 105:12four-year 179:19Furnish 2:10 48:10 58:1	
forget 46:16 85:23 105:12four-year 179:19Furnish 2:10 48:10 58:1146:8Fr 2:11 67:14 77:14 81:4,758:17,21 67:8	4
140.8       FF 2.11 07.14 77.14 81.4,7       38.17,21 07.8         forgiven 202:19       81:10,15,19,21 82:8,11       furniture 68:2	
101 given 202.17     01.10,13,17,21 02.0,11     101 mture 00.2	

[		Page 268
further 23:14 25:3,11,13	Giuliani's 239:20	170:7 227:10
46:6,19,21 51:19 52:21	<b>give</b> 21:3 32:16 34:18 38:9	<b>going</b> 6:16,17 19:9 21:3
53:19 62:11 74:11 85:7	45:18,20 76:7 89:8 98:19	34:10,15,18 37:21 40:8,9
207:13 212:4 217:14	99:11 112:23 114:9	40:17,18 41:16 42:8,8,9
243:4	119:15 146:22 147:15	45:9 47:11 48:10 60:24
Furthermore 108:9	152:9,9 153:2 157:10	78:12 90:11 91:21 92:12
<b>future</b> 7:11,14 17:3 124:15	160:15 191:11 200:19	93:14 99:20,20,24 100:2
153:16 171:3 181:21	206:5 230:13 234:7	100:3 109:14 130:15
210:14 220:5	235:16 238:15 239:3	132:2,3,19 133:7,14
<b>F.B.I</b> 146:22	240:19	134:22 135:23 139:6
	given 34:19 47:6 77:9	140:11 142:14 148:14
<u> </u>	88:24 89:3 123:17,18,21	152:22 155:10 165:21
gain 55:14 113:4,6 181:13	134:7 205:11 208:10	171:14 172:13 175:6
<b>game</b> 156:7	211:15 212:13 216:2,15	186:4 188:3,20 192:10
games 156:3,10,11,14	222:15 231:9,16 232:9	193:3,14 196:23 198:22
gang 152:23	gives 94:3 169:8 213:22,22	203:10 231:23 233:5,20
gangs 27:6 73:17,20 76:9	<b>giving</b> 82:18 99:7 118:19	234:16,21 235:20 238:7
Gantt 3:6 20:6	248:6	239:3 241:10 245:9 246:5
<b>gap</b> 225:15	<b>glad</b> 100:13 211:23 237:24	<b>good</b> 5:2,6 6:11 23:8 34:7
gaps 229:10	glaringly 177:4	36:17 42:12 45:23 48:20
garbage 99:6	Glenville 91:15 92:4	55:4 70:14 77:20 82:15
garnishing 200:2	glioma 205:3	82:16 86:24 88:17 91:19
gather 226:17	glorious 53:7	92:21 111:18 114:21
general 49:12 111:15 127:8	<b>go</b> 6:16 28:6 36:20 72:6	115:14 120:16 121:8
147:12 174:15 215:20	73:17 76:12,18,22 98:2	126:19 149:8 153:4
General's 150:5	99:12,24 124:22 134:20	159:12 160:13 166:20
generated 32:20 57:12	137:3,4,4 141:10 151:11	172:14 183:19,20 196:17
generation 53:18	152:14,15,19 153:6,10,20	215:8 217:2 219:4 221:8
generic 107:3	153:21,23 154:3,5 156:13	221:10,12 225:17 230:7,9
gentleman 231:13 239:4	167:8 168:6 169:5,19	232:22 237:16,18,21
genuinely 247:14	170:21 172:5 176:15	241:24 242:2 245:18
geography 29:20 31:4 66:8	178:11 181:3 191:3,21,24	gotten 136:23 228:19 235:6
George 2:4 5:7 24:8 129:22	217:18 221:15 224:6	238:21 244:17
134:17	233:7,9 234:15 240:17	governing 84:17 117:18
getting 37:3 66:18 73:23	goal 8:6 13:20 22:19 45:21	government 36:7 49:12
122:4,16 123:11 132:5	53:16 54:10 55:17 77:23	56:6,12 149:15 151:15
143:6 145:16 151:10	79:3 80:22 84:15 115:19	government's 51:16 86:16
156:15 168:3 184:20	176:16 219:23	governor 21:11 26:11
214:2 242:10,24 243:7	goals 54:11 55:23 57:12	45:11,12 51:24 128:17
giant 26:7,8	78:23 79:11,12	134:6 220:15 238:11,17
<b>giants</b> 144:23	God 9:12 77:20 112:13	239:10,10 241:23
Gioia 2:14 115:12,13,14	169:6	governor's 21:14 45:16
120:12,17,20	goes 64:15 95:15 97:8	gradual 15:24
<b>Giuliani</b> 239:8,9,13	138:4 151:16 169:22	graduate 92:5
		Ŭ

Page	269
1 age	20,

		Page 26
graduated 26:3 27:21	growth 79:7	231:14 233:5 234:16
52:23 219:14 227:18	guarantee 75:15,15	happened 37:15 93:18
228:13	guess 166:5 217:9 221:2	151:20 198:5
graduates 26:7	guidance 17:20 73:17	happening 74:6 132:20
Graham's 168:11	122:14 213:12	133:17,17 134:2 149:24
grain 240:17 241:10	guide 98:11	150:8 151:18 200:16
grand 30:13	guidelines 86:8 218:9	240:9
grandchild 152:5	guiding 77:22 227:5,5	happens 55:3,5 128:16
Grandma 156:8	<b>Guilderland</b> 166:17	132:18,24 149:13 180:19
grandmothers 152:3	guilty 32:3 47:5 194:16	184:17 199:21
grandparents 185:17	207:2,3,4,11 215:4	happier 105:20
grandson 156:3	Gums 242:11,12	happy 87:13 182:24 183:2
grant 182:2 223:18	gun 156:12	hard 75:10 118:8 120:3
8	•	
granted 98:15 great 24:12 34:17 37:6	guns 27:4 218:24	151:23 160:11 218:11,12 218:18 219:21 229:18
40:5 46:23 47:2 48:3 66:6	<b>guy</b> 194:14 241:15 242:19 243:6 245:12	hardcore 103:21
71:3 72:21 75:8 76:7	<b>guys</b> 31:5 76:6 169:2 171:4	hardest 125:6 207:7
84:23 103:13 126:16,17	171:6,9 244:18	hardship 155:5
126:17 130:4 135:21	<b>guy's</b> 146:8	hard-won 22:13
136:5 147:6 148:2 160:24	gym 68:2	harmful 49:18
211:19 232:16,17 233:12	<b>G.E.D</b> 105:24 121:21,22	harm's 87:6
233:12 247:13	123:21	Harold 239:13,20
greater 8:18 45:23 102:20	н	harsh 59:11 60:3 70:3
107:24 114:16 174:6	habit 191:24 192:13	184:3
193:13,14 210:9	Habitat 75:8	harshest 60:7
greatest 225:23	half 10:6 28:24 29:9 30:24	Hartford 54:14
greatly 36:8 103:3 108:4	30:24 75:13 97:14 128:24	Hartwell 2:15 142:9,12,13
211:19	129:4 173:18 181:15	142:14 147:8,11 148:7,11
Green 2:11 5:18 35:14		148:13
48:14,19,20,24 58:11	212:2 213:24 244:11,13 halt 52:21	Harwell 171:21
67:24		Haskins 48:16
grew 151:2 223:17 233:17	hammer 136:17	Hatch 220:24 221:9,10,12
235:14	hampers 225:9	221:14,18,19 229:22,23
<b>gross</b> 200:4	hand 27:13 65:11,12 100:4	230:2,5
ground 27:6 150:15 191:7	handed 36:19	hate 241:4
group 169:15	handful 22:8	havoc 47:12
groups 4:17 27:15 28:5	handle 29:13 178:23	head 33:15 136:5,18
56:19	handled 193:20	headlines 151:21
grow 27:6 97:21 173:21	handoff 130:10,11	healer 72:21
222:7	hands 125:17	healers 72:16,23
growing 15:24 226:23	hands-on 174:11	healing 58:6
grown 203:5 217:22	hanging 136:4,18	health 15:7 65:17 67:3
223:19 234:24 236:19	happen 55:19 56:10 69:21	83:22 89:15 127:11
<b>grows</b> 16:6 214:8	74:9 90:8 131:3 206:24	129:17 132:12 135:9
L		

		Page 270
1(1,21,17(,24,170,14,20	247-12	
161:21 176:24 179:14,20	247:12	179:19 180:13 181:6,7,9
184:12 185:20 209:16	helpful 94:17 100:12	181:16 182:7 194:7
211:21,22 212:3 216:8	helping 105:21 122:15,16	236:19,20,20,22
222:4	128:3 146:7 174:3	homeless 67:20 69:7 70:5
healthcare 57:15 163:9	helps 21:2 42:24 104:20	70:22 71:2 144:2
healthy 178:13 187:3	hereof 248:5	homes 73:24 152:2
health-related 70:16	hereto 248:5	homicide 30:13 116:2,4
hear 4:14 5:23 26:2 40:2,2	heroin 105:15	118:23 188:15,22 190:6
100:13 116:23 120:8	hesitation 80:3	honest 91:19 176:5
143:19 144:5,8 211:23	hi 78:7 142:13	honestly 94:11
221:2 244:8	high 10:19 12:4 23:10	honor 33:22
heard 39:24 95:5 135:23	37:21 50:2 64:5 76:3	honorable 6:22
137:24 139:21 168:22	177:18 189:6 214:2	hood 178:12
190:13 220:8 245:4	238:15	hope 4:11 17:2 21:21 39:21
hearing 1:4,12 4:2,8 63:11	higher 104:5 138:22 162:4	40:10 51:23 71:23 73:3
89:6 97:8 106:4,20	167:17 193:8 209:14,18	74:2,12 116:13 124:14
116:20 119:16 125:24	210:20	153:14 169:7 171:3
126:3 170:24 221:6	highest 37:23 129:18	181:20 184:17,18 185:15
230:14 231:13 245:10	highest-risk 14:19	214:4 220:13 229:13
246:17 247:9,16	highlight 7:17 34:20	235:15,16,19 246:11
hearings 18:15 24:15 66:11	highlights 21:7 34:12	hopefully 119:21 142:7
117:10 119:5 159:9	35:14	211:7
165:14 196:20 221:15	highly 186:2	hopeless 185:14
hearts 232:15	high-risk 14:6	hopelessness 169:7
heated 190:12	hire 218:17	hoping 96:24
Heather 48:16	historic 69:2 158:7	horrible 51:12
heavily 50:14	historically 190:18	hospital 83:20 215:12,13
heavy 234:4 242:10,11	history 37:15 53:8 121:17	hospitals 70:16,17
245:17	126:9 223:9 239:2	<b>hostile</b> 106:10
heckling 106:11	hit 136:13 145:13 235:18	hotels 79:17
heights 143:19	hitting 147:24	hours 18:13 143:13 194:2
held 47:3 56:11 63:11	<b>HIV</b> 64:10	219:5
111:4 223:21	hoc 222:15	house 61:17 68:18 72:2
<b>hell</b> 214:11	hodgepodge 117:22	106:12 217:23
help 6:3 33:19 42:9 65:12	Hogan 30:11	housed 68:21
72:14 74:4 77:22 78:20	hold 110:23	households 90:13
78:24 89:13 94:21 100:10	holding 8:9 66:11 196:19	houses 68:14 73:21
100:11 114:17 122:3,13	holds 123:23	housing 18:22 50:4 57:15
142:10 146:19 148:5	holistic 142:22	65:16 67:11,18,20 69:7
156:21 163:4 168:21	home 12:13 34:24 73:18	69:10 70:6,14,22,23 71:4
183:11 210:14 218:18	88:21 124:2 137:3 143:9	71:7 72:3 73:5 74:3 75:7
219:24 228:21 235:4,5	152:2,3 154:5 155:12	75:8,19,24,24 76:5,17
238:14	156:4 173:24 174:4,13	106:6 139:5 154:15
helped 147:18 148:2	175:5,23 178:24 179:12	163:10 224:21 225:3,15
101704 1 17.10 1 10.2	1,0.0,00 1,0.01 1,7.12	105.10 221.21 225.5,15

Dama	271
Page	271

		Page 27
228:4	identity 180:8	42:20,23 57:18 60:21
Houston 54:14	idleness 152:24	71:8,9 78:24 79:16 87:9
hovering 36:4	ignore 155:2	91:6 93:7 95:24 96:14
HUD 74:3 75:23,24	ignored 155:4	98:19 116:13 149:9
Hudson 233:7	<b>II</b> 205:4	158:16,24 159:9 160:14
huge 170:2 225:15	illegal 25:9	165:19 181:12 204:15
huh 147:8 217:11	<b>Illinois</b> 202:13,17	206:6
human 50:11,13,20 90:9	illness 155:7	importantly 33:4
158:22 171:15 185:9	illustrious 6:5	impose 245:14
humane 57:24	imagine 54:2 57:23 82:22	imposed 199:6
hundred 8:15 9:4 10:5,13	204:10 205:9,14 213:9	imposition 115:19
14:8,10 29:13,15 38:3,12	214:15 217:12 236:12	imposible 30:4 178:23
38:21,23 47:15,15,16	imbalance 161:15	218:15
49:19,20 61:10,11,12,14	immaturity 208:14 211:20	impression 87:23
61:18,24 62:3,23 63:3,3	immediate 56:10 218:3	impressionist 238:5
63:14,19 64:7 69:2 106:6	immediately 33:3 68:11	imprisoned 66:18
106:17 109:10 127:19,23	86:3 130:9,10 215:19	improve 60:23 70:9 133:18
139:7 143:12 152:11	imminent 119:17	169:9
158:9 169:20 189:9,11	impact 22:17 24:14 39:14	improvement 227:5
190:7 191:17 195:3	39:20 44:21 46:22 49:13	improving 162:9
223:23 224:23 242:8	70:24 87:11 172:18 174:6	impulsive 208:5
243:22,24	183:18 185:9 187:11	inability 73:23 203:10
hundreds 89:8	193:9 219:11 223:2	inaccurately 27:15
hurdles 225:6	<b>impacted</b> 12:7 184:8 190:3	inactive 201:12
hurt 213:18	impairment 75:4	inadequate 69:23 70:23
hurtful 49:17	impart 80:11	incapacitated 190:7
husband 88:19	impart oo.11 impediment 29:21	incarcerate 63:5
	impediments 28:19	incarcerated 8:17 38:11
Ι	impetus 26:7	52:12 63:15 64:2,8 65:9
<b>Idaho</b> 201:2	implement 36:21 226:16	67:12 85:13 103:6,7,14
idea 55:7 75:22 90:5 91:20	implementation 212:8,8	105:9 159:24 164:11
94:11 136:21 147:15	223:4 229:16	174:9 175:20 176:7 183:8
170:19 179:5,5 233:20	implemented 13:2,5 31:10	184:21 185:18 186:11
ideal 105:8 160:24	227:10	199:14,18 201:24
ideas 135:19	implementing 17:8 19:17	incarcerating 113:7
identification 65:3 78:3	223:2 229:2	185:24
163:18 198:14 224:7	imply 28:5	incarceration 8:2,14 10:6
226:9	<b>importance</b> 7:20 9:21	15:17 18:18 22:9 25:16
identifications 93:20	10:21 12:18,19 31:22	25:24 26:5 31:12 35:5,6
identified 9:24 97:10	127:5 164:7	50:14 55:12 57:16,21
173:21 191:23 225:6	<b>important</b> 4:16 7:13 9:8	84:19 90:5,19 104:3
identify 7:22	10:18,24 15:9 17:5,16	127:2 160:9 161:20 162:7
identifying 32:13 93:13	18:17 19:16 20:23 21:7	163:22,24 173:24 174:4
173:13 182:22 191:7	21:13 22:11,12 29:22	177:5 181:7 184:12 187:8
	,	

	, <b>,</b> ,	Page 272
200:24 201:11 203:16	indeterminate 23:21 24:10	injury 88:21
219:14 226:2,15,21	24:21 108:11 118:3	injust 158:19
227:13 231:13 232:9	indicated 88:23	injustice 184:2
incarcerations 57:20	indicted 194:8,21,22	inmate 22:6 23:13 38:24
incarceration-focused	indictments 189:10	63:17 116:20 119:2
55:22	indirectly 188:19	121:12 176:12 234:14,15
incentive 59:23 160:15	<b>individual</b> 53:4 80:7 85:17	inmates 22:14 24:2,16
incentives 55:8 104:9	85:24 131:9 140:7,20,21	60:16,19 64:11,16 76:22
incident 68:22	176:2 177:23 202:7	83:10 104:17,22 105:2
<b>include</b> 10:9 23:15 65:3,14	211:10 229:9	113:15 118:12 122:15
84:6 90:22 110:10 141:5	individualized 176:3	129:2,10 169:6 209:20
159:6,7 160:10 163:16,24	individually 216:18	232:10 235:17
198:24	individuals 67:12 70:21	inmate's 116:23 117:16
included 51:23 158:13	79:4 82:22 85:12 126:7	119:6
175:24 176:20 178:4	126:13 128:12,19 130:5	inner 158:4 159:20 193:11
212:5 227:3	173:23 174:7 175:2 176:4	<b>innocent</b> 46:16 47:18 151:7
includes 221:20 222:3	176:7 177:10,19 178:19	206:23 207:11
including 10:7 12:13 16:18	179:11,17,23 180:2,13,17	innovative 202:5,10
24:14 46:18 54:6 80:7,13	182:6 197:17 221:23	<b>input</b> 4:16 13:11 45:19
85:3 150:12 163:6 172:5	223:23 225:23 227:20	92:23 119:5 120:4 159:8
179:15	individual's 138:16 216:18	207:19 247:15
inclusive 248:10	industries 52:22 164:22	inside 83:10
incognito 120:24	industry 52:11	insist 63:4
income 200:4 202:23 203:2	ineffective 227:23	insists 62:20
increase 15:17,24 16:15	ineligible 217:3	inspiration 155:22
35:19 36:24 39:13 54:9	<b>infant</b> 30:12	inspire 169:10
54:15 90:15 93:18 110:6	inferior 50:10	installed 102:12
175:18	inflate 110:4	instant 94:2
increased 11:17 26:16	influence 129:2 131:22	instilling 235:13
36:14 37:20 55:11 61:13	161:9 165:4	<b>Institute</b> 16:14 17:10
63:19 80:8 104:5,6	inform 14:17	instituting 53:8
227:14	information 11:4 13:14	institution 52:3,15 142:16
increases 71:12 203:5	14:15,20 31:16 39:16	142:21
226:5 227:15	40:17 90:10,14 153:14	institutional 80:12
increasing 37:8 93:13	182:23 224:19	institutions 50:11 53:24
95:24 110:18	informative 165:16 247:11	83:23
increasingly 16:5 49:23 110:8	infraction 242:17	instructors 17:14
	infrastructure 60:19	<b>instrument</b> 14:2,3,16
incredible 21:19 59:13 66:4	initial 177:18 initiated 238:13	19:17,18 41:24 97:23 98:8 225:24 226:13
incredibly 97:24 247:11	<b>initiative</b> 87:4 172:3,11	98.8 225.24 226.15 instrumental 20:2
incremental 78:22	175:15,16 176:17	intakes 9:17
independent 74:12	<b>initiatives</b> 171:23 177:17	integrated 57:9 64:18
indeterminant 217:8	238:16	207:16
matter millant 217.0	<i>23</i> 0.10	207.10

	1/15/2007, Albany, NT, Tuble Hearn	Page 273
integration 225:11	43:11	Jack 98:24 99:7,8,10,18
integrity 103:23 235:14	invasion 194:7	100:4,7
intelligence-driven 44:19	inventoried 229:9	<b>Jackson</b> 203:22,22
<b>intend</b> 174:15	<b>invest</b> 175:22	jail 100:2,8 102:16 106:13
intended 89:8	investigate 156:21	107:20 109:5,15 137:4
<b>intense</b> 164:11	investigation 9:5,8 10:22	151:11,14 217:18 218:5
intensive 130:13 149:19	11:10 42:7,10,16 147:13	242:14 246:5
intensively 8:23 13:18	150:4 226:14	jails 8:2 134:4 147:24
15:15	investigations 9:18 93:17	<b>jam</b> 76:12
intent 13:14 195:18	143:22	<b>James</b> 2:9,10 20:10 44:15
intention 87:24	investment 42:4	<b>January</b> 13:22 41:19 47:14
intercede 139:14	invisible 149:24	63:14,22
interest 84:23 115:18	<b>invite</b> 146:6	<b>jargon</b> 205:6 207:15
201:16 203:3	inviting 223:23	<b>Jeff</b> 120:24
interested 4:9 82:23	involved 54:20 59:3 86:14	Jeffrion 3:7
221:22 237:9	119:21 162:15 164:9	<b>Jersey</b> 201:8 210:17
interesting 166:8 201:8	194:5 222:6 245:23	241:24
247:10	<b>involvement</b> 55:10 159:8	<b>Jill</b> 98:24 99:4,10,18,19,20
Interfaith 157:21,23	165:9 207:21 222:6	100:7
172:18 183:17 187:11	involving 165:19	<b>Jimmy</b> 238:6
interim 36:23	in-depth 31:14	<b>Joan</b> 175:13
internal 180:5	<b>Ironically</b> 113:6 207:20	<b>job</b> 12:13 34:17 45:8 65:20
internationally 143:3	<b>irony</b> 239:5,8	70:12 73:8,16 74:12
Internet 108:24 153:17,19	irreconcilable 191:8	75:15,15,16 79:8 80:8
153:20,21,23 165:12	Island 143:2	83:16 86:2 99:21 143:9
<b>interpreted</b> 90:18 199:8	isolated 149:24 150:18	146:23 153:11,20,22
interrelated 95:19	156:17	177:2,8 218:17,19,22
interrogated 206:2	isolation 154:19 155:4	219:4,13 225:10 228:4
intertwined 177:7	issue 17:5 32:18 41:6,14	243:15
intertwining 194:11	43:22 59:3,8 65:3 67:4	jobs 16:20 27:18 60:13
intervening 198:5	176:14 179:15 183:23	67:18 77:19 79:24 144:6
intervention 156:19 178:7	204:8 209:21 212:13	154:12
interventions 14:22 174:20	220:4 238:19	<b>Joe</b> 5:14 81:21 82:8 246:20
interview 86:2	issued 60:6 65:5 197:22	<b>John</b> 80:5 243:21
interviews 80:10	issues 22:16 44:9 48:2	<b>join</b> 67:9 230:7
intimidating 106:7	56:21 57:7 67:15,18 87:9	joined 20:6,10 166:19
intractable 97:2	92:9 97:9 103:3 159:11	joining 91:16 142:12
<b>intricacies</b> 209:10 <b>introduce</b> 4:23 214:16	177:5 179:14,14,21	<b>joint</b> 128:16 130:4 131:16 133:11
	182:18 183:23 197:3 211:21 238:18 239:22	
introducing 6:5 Int'l 248:11	issuing 163:17	jointly 133:10 134:8 Jones 54:24 142:3,4 172:23
inundated 147:14	item 93:15 175:12	172:23
invalid 158:19		Joseph 2:5
<b>invaluable</b> 39:15 42:16	J	<b>Journal</b> 146:22
ту <b>шины                                    </b>		<b>5041 mut</b> 1 10.22

		Page 274
journals 97:16	209:11 210:6 211:16	know 9:7 20:22 21:16 27:7
<b>Joyce</b> 2:15 142:9,14	219:22 222:7 223:6	28:23 29:3 30:5 34:17
<b>Jr</b> 2:6 83:2	234:22 238:4 243:13	36:9,11,13 37:9,13,19
judge 18:2 41:3,22 89:4,7	245:4	38:4 39:19 40:11 42:18
97:12 98:10,11 122:22	juvenile 9:12,20 209:15	42:21 43:2,4 77:4,15 78:5
123:7,10 130:22 138:7	210:23 212:7	92:14 93:5 125:5,12
139:20 194:16,19 195:2,6		126:5,24 127:13 128:19
207:18 211:6 215:15	K	129:4,5,13,14,16,17
216:5,9 240:19,20,20	Karen 2:15 126:8,9,14	130:7,13 131:16,17,17
241:7,9	135:22	132:2,5,6,11 133:2 134:6
judged 112:14,17	Kate 30:11	134:12,15,16 135:3,7,8
judges 37:9 41:23 65:20	Katherine 148:23	136:10,12,21 137:4,9
138:13 160:23 161:9	keenly 82:23	138:11,12,14,15,22,23
216:15 240:5,8,13,15	keep 6:3 62:4,24 67:2	139:4,12,16,16 140:5,10
241:2	92:18,19 108:10 128:22	140:11,12,14,16 141:6,8
judge's 112:15	145:16 148:7 172:13	141:8 146:10,13 147:3
judgment 203:3 208:18	206:8 216:14 243:17	154:20 155:13 167:9,18
judicial 10:24 18:12 25:17	keeping 85:11 86:3 145:15	167:24 168:20 169:9
65:3 190:17 192:23	145:21	170:15 171:3,5 177:10
judiciary 26:17 36:6 41:21	keeps 26:8,9	182:5 185:6 190:12,13
243:15	Kennedy 210:6	191:15 192:19,21 194:9
<b>Julianne</b> 145:22	Kenneth 246:8	195:22 197:14 204:23
<b>Julie</b> 2:14 120:22 121:9	Kerik 242:13	205:6,7 206:20 207:24
July 97:12 174:10	key 177:16 179:13 228:8	216:10,24 217:20 218:4
<b>Junior</b> 242:11,12	kid 97:14 244:9	218:11 220:10 228:19
Jurisdiction 212:7	kids 76:10 96:17,21,21	230:16 233:17 234:8
jury 30:13 89:4,4	97:6,15,20 147:24 152:8	235:2,3,3 236:11 238:12
justice 1:2 9:12 20:24	152:22 184:20 185:3,10	241:16,16,20 243:10,23
22:10,18 32:10 35:17	185:13,14	245:3,3,16,16
45:23 48:15 49:3,4,8,14	kill 243:11	knowing 108:6 137:2
51:14,19 52:6 54:5,18	killed 245:13	knowledge 23:13 53:2
55:23 56:14,16,17,21	killer 46:10	80:12 161:22
57:12 58:5,6,13 77:16	killing 155:24	knowledgeable 7:9 128:5
85:9 91:7 92:9,15 93:9	kind 21:3 35:13 41:7 51:17	known 103:11 169:2 208:3
94:2,8,20 97:22 115:20	73:24 75:3,4,17 76:16	212:11
118:9 120:4 121:3 126:12	78:4,20,21 79:16 80:3,21	<b>knows</b> 9:13 107:10 144:23
127:6,14 128:10 133:5	93:24 170:8 226:23 241:5	Know-Nothings 238:24
136:24 140:5 142:19	kinds 145:12	Koon 3:6 20:7,8
143:17 148:24 149:5	<b>King</b> 74:21 236:4,5 244:10	<b>Korotkin</b> 3:7 19:23
150:11 151:10 157:23	244:20	Kraft-Stollar 212:21
162:20 166:18,20 172:2	Kingpin 195:21	Kraft-Stoller 220:23
172:20 186:8 187:2	Kingston 106:5	<b>Kunstler</b> 238:3 243:14
196:15,20 203:12 205:21	knew 215:16 223:7 231:4,6	<b>Kyros</b> 170:3
205:24 206:17 207:13	234:16	<b>J</b>

		Page 275
L	60:7,15 61:5 62:12 63:9	159:5
$\frac{\mathbf{L}}{\mathbf{L}3:7}$	63:12 64:22 65:23 66:15	legislators 56:2
labeling 107:3 110:17	66:17 84:17 85:6 103:23	legislature 59:13,15,17
Labor 164:8 167:8	104:15 110:15 117:18,21	60:12 66:16
	119:23 121:4,13 150:8,12	legislature's 59:22
<b>lack</b> 31:5,5 64:5 65:24 99:21 114:3 127:9 143:14	158:18 161:8 165:2,2	<b>Lehman</b> 2:6 5:16,16
144:24 146:4 162:13	184:3,8,13 186:21 195:13	lending 110:5
	199:24 208:21 214:20	length 25:7 128:9 211:13
177:19 179:21 198:18 208:17	215:17 216:7,13 241:18	lengthy 118:13
	243:4,5	lenient 192:24
lags 224:20	lawyer 215:3 241:9	Lentol 2:5 5:14,15 81:17
Lake 29:23 30:8	lawyers 150:13 161:3	81:20,22 82:17 246:21,24
landscape 54:3	law-abiding 8:11 47:20	lesser 215:4
language 162:18	lay 234:4	letter 10:15 26:11 116:3
languishing 242:4	lead 116:10 133:23 164:15	letters 80:11
large 5:24 9:13 18:20 22:6	231:12	
49:22 67:24 77:2 155:6		letting 120:6
226:23	leader 6:8 43:21,22 60:5 67:10 115:24 121:3	let's 79:2 130:7,7 135:2,3,3
largely 186:19	07.10 113.24 121.3 154:20	152:9 186:22,23 221:16
larger 110:13 186:16		<b>level</b> 12:11 35:3 62:9 84:2
largest 83:15 127:18 133:5	leaders 44:17 52:17	114:15 140:18,21 176:4
162:21	leadership 12:3 44:3,11	209:16,18 211:17 223:13
Larry 2:12 82:13 83:2	53:8	243:17
Lastly 15:2 102:22	leads 64:20	levels 10:20 56:6 114:4,10
late 68:5 179:3	learn 117:4 180:6	154:19 189:5 242:7
Latinos 52:9 57:22 62:15	learned 25:20 142:15	level-two 102:22
242:7	213:17 234:13	Lewis 240:20
<b>laughs</b> 214:10	learning 160:12	liberate 51:18
launched 175:16	learns 178:2 213:13,19	liberties 50:22
law 4:18 29:15 31:22 32:15	leave 37:14 81:7 109:18	license 132:15,17 133:14
32:17,20 45:14,19,24	137:3 157:13 163:22	200:7,8 217:24
46:7,17 47:5 48:15 49:2	171:12 200:16	licensed 105:18
50:11 51:13 54:7 56:2,15	leaves 229:15	licenses 208:22
56:15 58:12 59:20 61:7	leaving 199:7	life 24:3,3 25:7 69:23 74:12
83:7 87:3 92:5,7 98:7	lecturer 33:17	74:19 77:9 85:14,18
117:19,20,20 136:3	<b>lectures</b> 165:15	88:20 92:17 96:22 118:5
191:15 195:4 196:3 197:3	led 93:21	124:9 137:2 150:24 156:6
197:3,5,8,15 198:11	left 156:17 205:17 213:9	160:12,16 170:12 192:22
199:7,10,19 202:7 203:14	legal 4:18 51:4 60:19 69:10	213:21,23 214:9 215:18
209:11 230:20,21 231:5,7	80:13 148:3 150:13	215:24 217:6,10 220:3
231:20 234:10 235:21	196:21,22 197:3 243:16	231:10,23 232:7 233:21
240:10,23	legally 198:7	234:3 235:7,11 242:14
lawmakers 49:12	legislation 32:21 36:23	lifeguards 84:8
laws 4:20 17:4 25:6,14	60:2,10 61:3 64:24 66:21	lifestyle 177:21 218:15
57:6 59:9,11,14,16,18,24	legislative 1:12 56:11 85:5	lifetime 184:24 217:15
, , , , -, -, -		

		Page 276
life-altering 205:16	locations 70:7,8 73:22	79:24 92:9 94:15 96:5,6
light 86:22	lock 76:12	111:18 125:2 135:6
likelihood 93:13	locked 61:14 62:2	136:15 141:16 146:11
limit 75:16 156:9 208:22	locking 62:21	155:11 171:3 232:17
limitations 12:10	logic 113:3	love 99:16,17 174:18
limited 29:17 30:15,17	long 27:16 53:16 84:21	213:11,24 221:2 233:11
44:6 52:5 68:22 90:10	96:9 118:8 120:2 121:5	234:19,19
153:17 175:7 222:13	126:9 186:4,12,23,24	loved 90:2,4 116:14 232:5
225:7	222:15 223:9 236:7	loves 213:23 214:2
<b>limits</b> 178:6	longer 17:14 116:15	loving 233:11
<b>line</b> 75:18 77:4 210:17	180:10 184:18 208:10	low 170:16 225:22
lines 70:15 176:12	236:4 242:21	lower 102:21 170:11
<b>linking</b> 173:14	long-range 208:17	209:18
list 99:11 247:5	long-term 79:11 103:18	lowest 62:9 112:5
listened 215:3	113:2,5,12 208:5 212:12	Low-income 202:20
listening 220:12 236:12	212:14	low-level 60:4,8 62:24
litany 50:6	long-time 103:8,8 123:2	64:17 66:2,6,18 190:16
literally 184:2 185:23	237:23	low-risk 226:5
<b>literature</b> 227:8 228:6	look 17:3 33:11 38:2,8	low-skilled 77:3
<b>litmus</b> 101:7	69:17 94:12 130:5 131:13	LSI-R 14:2
little 37:14 59:10,20 61:4	131:16 132:2,3,19,20,21	luck 137:16
96:22 97:17 106:23	132:24,24 133:12,19,19	lucky 215:23
125:13 126:18 151:4	133:21 134:16 146:6,8	lunch 166:6
184:22 220:21 237:22	166:21 179:6 181:17,20	Luther 74:21
238:8 241:9	181:22 185:8 190:9 201:2	lying 178:16
live 50:3 71:7,11 106:14,18	211:10 212:13 215:23	M
130:15 151:2 152:15	220:5 229:5 245:18	<b>Maccarone</b> 2:8 6:5,11,13
154:20 159:18 161:23	looked 63:11 118:8 146:9	19:11,13,21 34:14 40:22
213:10 214:17 218:10,10	154:8 168:14 193:23 215:15 216:17	41:12
lived 68:4,8 109:24 liven 238:8	looking 29:7 44:20 78:21	machine 242:21
lives 69:9 117:2 125:6	78:22 79:11 146:18	Macys 243:8
128:6 144:22 158:22	167:15 170:18 179:18	Madam 33:21 101:24
164:20 169:3 171:9 191:3	182:19 193:10 194:9	188:2
210:3	233:11	magnitude 205:16
living 30:7 70:2 73:14 75:9	looks 216:12 219:2	<b>mail</b> 152:16
89:19 176:19 214:6	Lorenzo 54:24	<b>mailbox</b> 152:16
local 8:2,15 10:3 12:20	Loretta 246:7	mailboxes 152:14,14,17
13:18 16:13 32:15 36:7	Lorraine 3:2 203:24 204:6	mainstream 71:19
41:22 56:13 71:22 73:20	lose 19:2 91:4 144:14 146:2	<b>maintain</b> 52:8 65:20 75:10
89:11 90:9 98:10 102:16	146:2 184:17,17	83:22 89:14 110:11
locate 32:15	loss 125:3 146:2	120:14 218:15
located 65:11 110:3 120:10	lost 145:21	maintaining 7:21
location 1:12 219:5	lot 21:23 34:19 40:16 78:4	maintenance 176:18

		Page 277
major 29:20 52:3,15,17	<b>March</b> 231:19	media 111:21 151:21
100:15 186:7 189:6,19	marchers 74:20	median 70:5
225:6 245:6,6	marching 74:20	Medicaid 78:16 197:11
majoring 219:22	mark 2:10 48:10,12,13	medical 50:5 70:20 72:8
<b>majority</b> 62:13 70:21	50:10 58:14,15	205:5
76:22 139:6 205:24	marked 44:22 223:11	meet 68:24 72:14 80:20
212:10,16	<b>marks</b> 238:15	89:22 154:21 204:20
<b>makeup</b> 116:15	<b>Mark's</b> 146:9	232:10
making 22:19 39:22 42:4	marquee 241:13	meeting 118:19 145:20
55:9 75:2 93:12 105:21	<b>marry</b> 208:20	meetings 72:5 102:12
107:4 134:18 139:14	<b>Martin</b> 74:21	143:12 224:3
183:10 202:23 206:15	<b>mass</b> 57:20	member 33:18 45:14 53:5
207:7 210:3 211:2 247:7	material 99:7	58:24 70:12 92:6 102:5
Malcolm 246:9	materials 96:20 98:22	103:4,8 106:4 149:5,6
male 64:11 102:14	99:13 100:16 248:12	155:5 157:22 158:6
males 49:22 174:8 177:13	matter 31:20 92:11 112:12	166:18 175:12
Malloy 3:8 148:14,17	186:8,9,10 198:22	members 2:2 6:22 7:6,7
157:2,3	matters 213:20	20:16,20 24:22,24 45:11
<b>Malone</b> 30:2,7	<b>mature</b> 112:11	46:17 48:21 54:8 77:16
mammoth 119:24	matured 227:2	82:17 83:12,13 101:24
<b>man</b> 144:2 174:21 178:11	maturity 208:16	103:12,13,22 116:5,24
178:13 188:9 217:22	<b>max</b> 105:14,15	117:3 118:22 120:5 125:7
236:19 239:6	maximum 118:5	155:14 158:13 173:13
manage 18:20	mayor 76:3	187:11 188:2 218:3,5
managed 8:23 10:12	<b>McClurkin</b> 2:14 120:22,22	219:18
management 77:20 130:14	121:8,9 125:11	membership 83:23 84:5
176:21 179:21	McDermott 2:5 5:12,12	memo 79:14
managers 77:24	<b>McGregor</b> 169:19	men 68:8,12 76:14 143:6
managing 9:16	McKinley 142:3,4 172:23	144:7 174:11 175:23
mandate 128:16,17	McLaughlin 240:20	181:6
mandated 25:22 32:14	Meadow 169:22	mental 15:7 65:17 83:22
191:15 223:16 mandatas 25:10 26:7 12 17	mean 38:8 42:14 78:12 130:13 152:14 180:12	161:21 176:24 179:14
mandates 35:19 36:7,13,17		184:12 209:16 211:21,22 212:3
36:18,21 37:12 39:6 mandating 32:21	meaningful 15:4 38:7 53:9 59:23 60:11 66:24 85:8	mention 115:24
mandatory 25:16 28:12	191:4 203:17 223:14	mention 115.24 mentioned 28:10 51:12
57:6 195:10,16 215:17	means 27:8 53:24 65:10	67:16 174:4
216:6 217:5	104:24 132:15 197:18	mentor 103:20
<b>Manhattan</b> 240:10,21,24	205:24 206:10	mentors 105:9
245:9,20	measurable 15:18 16:16	mercy 97:2
Manhood 175:15	108:13 109:7 113:3,6	merely 107:22
manner 154:24	measure 103:24	merit 103:23 104:9 112:24
manners 163:23	measured 16:2	113:4
mantra 27:14	mechanism 226:18	message 132:17 135:6

	, ,	Page 278
met 74:18 127:8 163:7,10	110:10	225:2 238:13
metastasized 205:4	misguided 210:7	moral 187:11 210:7
methadone 139:12	missing 214:3	<b>morals</b> 235:14
methodologies 227:11	mission 49:6 173:12	Morgenthau 139:22
methods 178:7	Missionary 149:7	morning 5:2,6 6:11 7:2
metropolitan 186:7 210:16	Missouri 201:6	20:16 21:6 29:12 30:12
<b>Mexico</b> 201:5	mistaken 93:20	30:13 48:21 82:15,16
<b>Michael</b> 2:5,13 91:14	mistakes 94:4	88:18 91:19,21 93:3
Michigan 202:12	<b>mob</b> 242:12,13	115:15 121:8 166:4
microphone 109:4	modality 130:23 131:4,6	218:21
microwave 236:4	138:16	<b>Morrison</b> 2:17 157:8
Mike 5:12,18 130:21 156:6	mode 53:22	165:20,23 166:2,3,9,13
miles 29:24 243:22	model 12:3 17:8 56:17	166:16,17 171:12,17
military 208:20	65:14 129:24 134:18	172:10,15
million 61:18 62:4 127:23	146:21 162:24 163:2	mortgage 145:23
145:7 146:16 147:17	173:10 191:19 222:24	<b>Moses</b> 238:3
239:24	228:19 229:2 236:17	mother 124:4 152:24
millionaire 145:23	models 10:9 105:9 155:21	155:16 213:22 232:3,23
Mills 189:23	155:22 161:21 164:15	235:13 236:22 244:14
mind 67:2 86:4 206:8	191:5 227:9	mothers 64:7,8 152:3
216:14	modern 241:4	244:7
<b>minds</b> 121:6	modification 200:24	<b>motion</b> 150:12
<b>mine</b> 146:6	201:10,11	motivated 79:2
minimized 163:11	modifications 25:5 61:7	motivation 46:11 160:10
minimum 25:8 170:11,16	modified 76:9 199:13	160:12,16
178:22	modify 199:20	<b>motivator</b> 136:5 137:5
minimums 195:10,16	modules 80:6	<b>Motor</b> 208:21
ministers 184:5	molesters 83:14	motoring 159:13
ministry 77:7	<b>mom</b> 73:16,18	<b>motto</b> 236:6
minor 205:2 210:8	moments 235:7	<b>mouths</b> 117:5
minority 58:24 60:5 242:4	momentum 59:22	<b>move</b> 51:10 55:21 76:6
minors 209:14 212:2	money 78:17 86:21 105:21	134:12 217:15
minor's 208:12 210:9	153:16 158:22 170:17	moved 117:19
minute 17:17 22:15 92:13	194:3 213:19 219:8	movement 23:6 52:18
<b>minutes</b> 5:22 34:13 91:22	245:15	moves 184:23
91:23 112:15 166:10,11	monitoring 54:21 159:14	moving 12:21 171:16
166:11 220:21 241:21	<b>Monroe</b> 5:19 222:2	<b>mug</b> 32:23
245:8	month 76:14 89:17,17	multiagency 84:2
<b>miracles</b> 169:10	133:15 202:24 203:5	multiple 124:3
misapplication 150:3	monthly 44:20 167:12,13	multitude 110:14
misconduct 18:3 209:3	months 90:3 118:12 123:10	municipality 149:14
<b>misdemeanor</b> 32:3 107:20	127:9 131:4 134:15	murder 143:21 188:17
107:23 110:20	168:24 183:9 194:4 200:5	194:5,20,22
misdemeanors 31:24 47:17	200:10 215:12 217:17	<b>Murdered</b> 115:12,24

		Page 279
118:21	43:12 50:24 53:21 55:7	neighborhood-based 181:8
<b>murderer</b> 118:16	59:7 64:15 66:15 67:21	neighborhood-level 65:10
murderers 83:13	69:7 72:19 73:24 75:14	neighbors 71:14
murders 118:13	77:18 78:7 80:19 85:13	neither 119:13 128:14,14
Murphy 2:9 20:11,13,14	85:21 86:21 97:9 111:13	nervous 241:10
21:10 33:14 93:3	117:15 122:4,12,13,13,14	nether 36:5
<b>myriad</b> 116:16	130:17 131:3,14 162:15	network 72:3,6 77:8 183:2
	162:17 164:11 173:14,22	neuroblastoma 205:2
N	173:23 180:2,4,6,24	neutral 211:6
NAACP 51:3 142:3	181:16,17,19 185:8,20	neutrality 211:12
naive 235:17	186:22 187:4 191:2	never 62:7 68:22 86:6
name 4:4 6:12 48:24 83:2	216:13,15,17,22 220:5	90:17 105:12 121:18
102:4 116:14 119:7 121:9	225:22 226:13,16,17	134:20 143:19 144:8
149:3 204:5 214:17	227:15 231:14 235:23	146:8 156:2,5 176:9,9
230:14,15 237:20 238:2	236:18 242:3,6 243:3,4	189:5 202:21 203:7
241:14 242:13 244:9	243:19 245:18	209:24 214:2,9,12,24
names 173:3 224:17	needed 51:15 57:5 60:20	218:5 235:9 240:15,16
narcotics 31:14 101:21	73:8 78:3 90:4 97:17	<b>new</b> 1:2,3,13 5:8,11 6:7
102:5,9,20 104:18 143:10	99:18 114:22 148:5	7:11,15,19,21 8:5,11 9:12
narrow 95:2	160:11 162:3 163:18	11:13,24 12:22 13:2,7,10
Nathan 248:2,14	173:16 180:9 224:19	13:12,20,21 14:5,6,7,24
nation 21:21 83:18 205:22	234:11,12	15:10,22 16:11 17:10,11
national 11:13 16:14 17:8	needs 7:23 9:11,23 29:18	18:17,23 20:11,19,24
17:10 35:2 146:21,22	40:23 41:14,15 42:19,22	21:2,18,19,24 22:3,20
177:11	46:20 60:22 65:5,7 66:8	23:2,23 25:6 26:14 27:24
nationally 225:15 nationwide 43:22 210:11	70:19,19 71:2 76:20	32:5 33:10 34:2 35:9,19
nation's 83:15	89:22 91:6 99:22 107:12	36:22 39:6 41:16 44:17
<b>natural</b> 53:14 64:20 172:6	116:23 121:22 130:9	45:22 46:2 51:3,15 53:7
nature 151:22	131:2 138:17 159:12	57:4 59:4,10,12 60:6
navigate 94:21	163:6,7,10,12 166:20	61:14,15,23 62:5,8,14,16
Nazi 242:21 243:2	176:14 180:15 199:12	62:20 63:16,19,21 64:2,8
near 124:15 151:2 163:3	213:19 218:8 225:24	64:22 65:23 69:14,16
nearly 8:4 10:5 28:2 29:4	226:10,22 229:17 232:18	70:7 72:14 80:15 82:20
30:4 49:10,18 50:15 62:7	243:18 245:5	82:24 83:3,10,17 84:5
176:3 215:12	<b>needy</b> 75:8	85:6 86:8 88:15 89:22
necessarily 96:7 181:3	negative 144:11	90:21 102:20 106:5 110:8
213:23	negotiate 23:9 negotiations 23:19	116:7 117:19 121:10
necessary 51:17 178:2	neighborhood 71:17,20	122:2 124:23 126:23 129:24 134:18 135:4,19
203:14	151:18 152:17 153:18	135:20 139:7,8 147:18
neck 244:16	173:10	148:24 149:11 150:2,9,17
need 9:20 13:3,5,8 14:12	neighborhoods 65:12	157:22 158:9 160:11
14:16 18:5,8 36:20 37:7	71:12 152:13 174:13	162:21 164:8 168:5,18
39:24 40:3 41:20,24 42:5	180:18	170:5,5,6 172:11,18

	ſ	Page 280
180:7,10,21 183:18 186:6	<b>notion</b> 55:16 161:16	64:16 65:7,9,21 89:2
186:17,20,22 197:23	Notwithstanding 12:9 61:6	95:13,22 102:23 107:12
199:8,9,19 200:14 201:5	<b>November</b> 1:10 70:4	110:24 117:9
201:8 205:21 208:15,20	189:10	offenders 7:23 8:9,16,17
209:19 210:16,17 212:16	no-justification 200:12	8:22,22 10:13 15:4 16:22
214:18 221:20 223:3,13	number 5:24 8:17 16:11	18:21 19:2,4,6 24:5 28:6
237:23 241:24 242:2	38:10 45:20 47:20 54:6	28:8 31:20 32:13,22 37:2
244:7 245:8 246:18	61:12 63:18 75:23 77:2	37:3 38:4,10 61:14,17,21
Niagara 158:12	85:2,10 96:17 98:11	61:23 62:5,8,16 65:13
nice 230:10,12	104:18 108:11 110:4,19	66:18 78:2,24 96:12
nickel 244:11,12,18	118:12 120:9 174:21	102:7 106:13,14,17 107:4
night 44:19 73:22 128:22	187:20 200:12,13 202:10	107:5 108:4,15,16 109:9
145:20	248:9	109:16,21,24 110:5
Nike 236:6	numbers 18:20 29:6 38:9	111:14,15 112:2,20,23
nine 14:8 61:14 152:11	49:22 61:4 75:18 147:16	113:24 114:12,20 193:5
203:3 217:23 221:21	174:7 178:18 193:8,13,14	193:12 195:17 224:22
223:2,24 228:22 246:2,3	224:8	225:4 226:5
<b>nineteen</b> 95:24 109:11	<b>numerous</b> 161:12	offender's 65:5 66:6
223:17	NYSCOPBA 82:13 83:5,6	offense 66:3 107:22
ninety 62:4 240:24	86:6 87:4,8,9	offenses 16:11 23:22 57:17
ninety-nine 10:13 106:17	<b>NYSCOPBA's</b> 85:10	60:4,8,12 61:8 63:22,24
ninety-one 62:16	<b>N.A</b> 102:12 103:2,3,4,5,9	64:17 106:19,24 109:12
ninety-seven 70:8	105:24 106:4 167:18	109:19 110:9,20,21 114:4
noncompliance 18:3	<b>N.I.C</b> 16:15 17:8,10	118:4
nondrug 23:21 118:5		offer 75:12 86:19 160:15
nonincarceratory 98:21	0	187:10
nonsensical 64:22	<b>OASAS</b> 126:8 127:18	offered 89:12,15
nontraditional 178:3	objectives 7:2	office 1:12 54:20 84:8
nonviolent 54:22 60:4 61:8	obligation 201:4	127:11 132:13 133:13,22
63:22,24 190:16 193:24	<b>obligors</b> 202:15,20	143:11 150:5 197:5,24
non-profit 49:3	observation 184:4,5	218:20 240:14,22
north 219:9 243:22,22	observations 106:21	officer 5:8 13:21 38:6 39:8
Northeast 143:10 163:3	obstacle 75:3	42:7,22 91:24 92:7 95:2
Northern 170:5	<b>obtain</b> 78:3 121:22	100:18 119:8 139:19
Northpoint 13:18	<b>obviously</b> 41:6 42:18 93:14	154:6
note 13:24 106:3 130:11	98:5 122:8 129:20 134:10	officers 13:10,10,19 14:9
158:6,15 198:15	occupation 76:4	15:3 18:5,5,8 41:17 43:3
noted 159:13	occur 114:8 118:18 191:13	43:4 45:7 65:11 77:21,21
<b>notes</b> 17:24 18:5	226:10	83:4,21 84:3,10 92:19,24
notice 119:2,15 146:3	occurring 159:23	94:8 99:9,17 156:14
noticed 106:22 109:23	occurs 79:7	169:16 181:17 234:23
230:24 233:4	offender 8:5 12:14 15:17	officer's 17:19,20
notified 119:4,6,16 206:3	17:4,9,12,18 19:2 28:14	offices 29:8 31:4 196:22
<b>notify</b> 131:10	32:10,16 62:22 63:2	official 45:19
·		

		Page 281
officials 49:12 54:7 106:11	193:9 195:4	ounces 244:16
oftentimes 128:10,12	opinion 103:2 180:9	outcome 11:21 16:16
138:19 177:23 181:9	<b>opportunities</b> 63:6 70:15	outcomes 15:19 129:8
<b>oh</b> 137:20,21 147:11 156:7	74:19 80:18 112:22 162:5	133:11 226:11
203:23 212:22 235:17	164:14 173:16 175:18	outdated 13:22
<b>Ohio</b> 201:2	180:2,5 181:18	outline 10:18 182:15 190:9
okay 19:12 81:6 88:8	<b>opportunity</b> 4:14 9:14 17:3	outlined 66:5 183:12
141:15,21 142:7 148:11	33:24 40:19 47:23 48:6	outpaced 110:21
148:20,24 154:22 157:6	48:22 58:9 59:15 74:11	outpatient 130:19 131:9
166:16 173:2,6 196:9	76:17 80:2 81:11 82:19	139:5,9
213:3,6 221:18 230:2	87:8 92:3,21 107:13	outraged 106:14
236:13 246:23	117:4 123:17,19,22	outreach 176:20
<b>old</b> 96:21,24 106:13 109:5	127:15 149:10 158:24	outset 159:2
121:13 168:15 193:20	160:10 162:6 183:22	outside 32:5 85:18 89:20
204:11 205:18 206:14,18	212:14,15 216:16 218:14	103:3 224:13
208:24 209:5,6	220:7 230:23 231:16	outstanding 122:20
<b>older</b> 155:17	232:10,12 233:6	overall 203:11 227:15
olds 208:23 209:24	<b>oppose</b> 86:9 195:15	overburden 161:4
<b>old's</b> 205:20	<b>opposed</b> 62:3 86:6 138:6	overburdened 11:23
<b>once</b> 30:3 47:17 55:3 87:7	opposes 25:13	overcome 79:5 180:4 219:3
111:4 170:15 172:8 183:3	<b>opposition</b> 25:19 114:2	overdue 84:21 222:15
202:17 209:13,24 231:8	optimism 223:14	overemphasized 9:22
231:15 233:13 234:14	<b>option</b> 215:8	overhauled 245:5
241:12	<b>options</b> 18:6 205:11 227:22	overindicted 207:5
ones 67:17 116:14 120:16	order 36:20 45:12,17 55:18	oversee 133:24
128:23 155:18 191:4	121:22 122:23 123:8	overseeing 102:21
207:6 232:6	130:23 190:24 203:2	oversight 65:19
one's 90:4	240:11	overtake 21:21
one-quarter 111:8	orders 117:14 199:13,21	overwhelming 199:4
one-stop 77:17	203:8	owe 200:2 201:18 203:6
one-third 29:4 73:6	<b>Oregon</b> 200:22	owed 117:13 202:6,9,14,15
ongoing 45:2 175:8	organization 49:4 121:11	202:16
online 4:11	158:3 168:11 182:23	owned 79:17 145:7
<b>Onondaga</b> 199:3 219:20	197:2 204:7 245:19	owns 105:18
onset 41:14	organizations 50:22 56:19	<b>O'Donnell</b> 2:3 4:4,5 5:9,9
open 143:12	71:21 158:8 181:9 223:5	5:20 7:5 19:9,12,22 20:9
opened 223:3	223:17 231:4 233:17	21:9,11 33:13 40:20 43:7
operate 35:3 102:23	organize 56:2	43:14,18 44:14 48:7,21
173:10 229:5	organizers 54:24	58:10,19 67:7 77:12 81:2 81:6 0 12 82:0 12 17
operated 10:7 operates 105:18 133:5	original 8:13 86:4 228:22 originally 120:10 122:18	81:6,9,13 82:9,12,17 87:17,21 88:5,9,14 91:9
operating 61:17 74:8	<b>Orleans</b> 130:3 131:13	101:12,17 113:18 115:9
221:21	134:16 225:8	120:7,13,18,21 125:5,12
operation 44:21 189:19	orphaned 147:19	126:3 135:12,17 136:2,8
יייייייייייייייייייייייייייייייייייייי		120.5 155.12,17 150.2,0

r		Page 282
137:6,9,13,18,22 139:21	47:3,4,7,10 57:6 65:10	43:23 44:6 136:2 158:4
140:3,22 141:2,14,18,21	67:22 77:21 84:4,5	163:8 174:7
142:2,7 147:6,9 148:6,9	100:17 101:5 107:6,19	parties 139:15 191:12
148:12,19,23 156:23	108:8 109:9,16 110:22	partner 126:11 135:21
157:5,12,15,18 165:6,20	111:4,6,17 112:4 116:10	172:6 180:15
165:24 166:7,12,15	116:12,19,20,22 117:3	partners 65:18 223:16
171:11,18 172:16 173:6	118:14,16 119:4,5,6,7,16	partnership 56:14
182:9 183:15,20 187:13	121:16 124:18 127:14	parts 121:23
187:16 196:9,14 203:19	132:7 139:19 150:23	party 211:6 238:24
212:18 213:3 220:16	160:15 164:2 168:8	party 211.0 250.24 pass 149:16
247:6	170:14 171:23 172:9,12	passed 59:18 118:15
<b>O.T.D.A</b> 198:6	-	246:13
<b>U.I.D.A</b> 198.0	174:14,15 176:18 179:24	
Р	181:17 217:7,15,19,21	passing 154:14
<b>P</b> 2:5	219:9,21 220:3 227:19,22	passion 182:4
package 244:18	229:2 232:20,21 236:23	pastor 67:23 74:13 149:8
page 134:20 162:11 248:5	239:5,7,9,11,14,16,19	Paterson 60:5
pages 248:9	paroled 119:6	path 141:10
paid 47:7 78:13 151:24	parolee 38:23	<b>Patricia</b> 2:14 3:3 115:11
163:21 203:11 233:12	parolees 24:18 47:17	212:21 213:4 220:23
	111:23 224:6 227:24	230:15
pain 97:2 155:9,21 213:13	228:9	Patrick 246:7
paint 100:22	Paroles 183:6	patronage 240:8,10
pair 243:8	part 10:24 41:8 42:15,18	<b>Paul</b> 3:7 19:23 221:18
panel 156:20 188:2	44:23 73:10 87:24 93:7	<b>pay</b> 199:23 200:3,4 201:15
paper 101:10	94:6 98:19 101:5 113:23	203:10
paragraph 32:9	114:2 116:13 123:19	paycheck 73:4,6
parallel 103:16 178:5	132:8 141:11,11 167:10	paychecks 200:18
paralyzed 244:15	170:5,20 171:5,7 173:12	paying 73:18 186:5 203:6
parent 124:4 201:23 202:2	175:17 176:10 222:19	236:14,15
202:2,15 204:6,7 208:2	227:3 233:14	payment 75:11 202:17,23
parental 147:20	partially 36:8	203:15
parenting 144:22	participant 30:3	payments 117:13
parents 115:12,24 118:21	participants 30:6 80:17	pays 202:15
147:21,21 175:20 185:17	145:9	pedophiles 107:2
199:18 204:13,14,15,22	<b>participate</b> 72:4 103:17	peers 228:20
205:12 206:3,11,12	participated 28:4 185:4	penal 29:15 117:20
parent-child 178:10	229:3	penalties 25:12,14 60:3
parish 67:24	participating 158:10	184:15 196:8 228:7
parishioners 68:10	164:19 185:11 223:22	penalty 27:9 46:6,21
Parker's 242:5	participation 115:20	115:19 186:5 208:11
parks 84:8	particular 50:16 104:19	Pennsylvania 201:4
parole 5:8 8:19 9:10 11:15	114:12 124:21 130:24	penny 87:5
13:12,15 24:4,9,13,16,19	140:21 174:19,21 240:18	people 5:24 26:3 33:2 37:2
24:20,22,23 38:12,19	particularly 25:15 32:10	37:3 38:13 49:7,9,14,14
	particularly 23.13 52.10	57.550.15 77.7,7,17,17

		Page 283
53:18 54:12,16 55:2,3,5,7	perform 9:15	<b>Ph.D</b> 105:17
56:10 57:21 61:4,7,21	performance 15:21	picked 231:18
62:2 68:5,18 71:11 73:22	performing 50:5 79:8	picnics 76:21
77:3,22 78:14,15 79:20	<b>period</b> 36:24 37:20 75:20	<b>picture</b> 117:12 152:10
79:24 100:7,22 105:21	193:23 197:16,19 217:8	<b>pilot</b> 15:12
112:7 113:7 123:15	periods 186:12	piloting 129:23
124:22 125:2,6,14 127:20	permanent 53:15 176:19	place 23:3 37:6 48:11
128:3 132:4 134:21 135:4	permissible 198:7	50:16 56:17 71:7 75:20
136:15 138:18 143:15,18	permits 145:12	78:7 106:16 131:20 139:2
143:24 144:10,18 145:2,3	permitted 103:4 199:19	143:11 145:17 146:9,14
145:18 146:4,5,11,14,17	perpetual 213:13	146:15 150:7,7 153:6
147:2,4,17,18 158:3	persistent 89:2	154:7,13 165:15 193:17
159:17,19,20,23 161:14	person 94:9 98:2,16 99:13	226:13,18 238:8 248:4
163:22 164:10,15 166:19	109:4 131:3 138:4 160:16	placed 36:14 215:20
171:13 172:8 174:3	161:22 162:15 163:13	placement 117:22 177:2
179:17 181:10 183:3	164:20 170:12 183:8	224:20 225:3
184:17,17,18 185:18,24	189:13 195:7 197:20	places 70:10 132:11 233:12
187:5 188:16,21 189:12	199:14,15 200:8 201:3	<b>placing</b> 55:4 87:5
189:24 190:3 191:2,19,22	218:13,17 220:3 232:4	plague 27:3
193:7 198:19 199:6,23	personal 12:12 115:18	plaguing 190:20
200:16 201:19 203:16	180:3 216:7 219:15	plain 100:8
211:23 217:2 218:16	230:20	<b>plan</b> 32:6 42:21 68:16
219:12,17 220:9 223:24	personally 46:18 87:15	90:20 93:8 94:6 110:10
233:16 234:8 240:23	174:10 176:6 195:15	180:10 202:18 229:11
241:2 242:8,24 243:10,16	214:19 231:8	planned 57:13
246:5,6	personnel 28:18 29:19 83:8	planning 41:19 74:11
<b>peoples</b> 150:21 151:7 154:9	persons 9:20 62:13 84:17	212:8 225:10,11
155:9,15	103:6,7,14 105:9 111:8	plans 15:4 80:10 172:5
people's 143:23	186:11	176:3 203:15
perceived 50:9	person's 179:13 201:15	plate 149:21 155:3 183:24
percent 8:4,20,21 16:4,7,9	211:19	play 39:12 49:18 66:9 91:7
16:12 28:2 35:23 37:21	perspective 19:6 117:9	145:13 181:5 216:19,19
37:24 38:18 39:4,5,7	130:18	played 19:16 174:23
61:20,22,23 62:6,8,16,18	persuade 32:16	players 223:9
63:17,20,20,23,24 64:4,5	Peter 2:11 67:10 81:18	playing 156:10
64:6,9,12 76:4,5 105:4,5	petition 200:24 201:11,12	<b>plays</b> 20:23 <b>Plaza</b> 1:13
105:6 109:11,16 129:11 134:21,23 139:8 150:21	phased 150:9 phenomenal 143:18 144:6	<b>plea</b> 23:18 39:9 40:7
	phone 218:2	-
168:12,14,16 188:17 191:22 193:4 200:3	phone 218.2 phonetic 80:5 170:4 242:11	161:10,14 243:7 plead 47:5 215:4
202:14,16 203:3 210:12	246:8	pleas 51:9
210:21,24 240:24 242:8	<b>photo</b> 224:7	please 57:8 87:14 113:11
perfect 94:4 183:13 242:16	phrase 180:11	156:21 158:6 212:15,22
perfectly 198:7	physiological 96:7	230:7
<b>P</b>	F,~,~-,,	

		Page 284
pleased 20:19 166:21	population 8:18 14:7 16:6	42:13 110:17 195:19
<b>pleasure</b> 20:15 82:6 171:17	16:8 22:6 28:3 63:17,18	practices 7:14 55:13 82:21
174:11 196:12	110:13 111:2 127:6	95:10,14 162:11,18
pled 194:15	128:23 186:18,19 193:5	222:20 227:8 229:4
<b>plight</b> 63:9,11	215:20	pray 96:24
plumbers 143:2	populations 8:19 12:5	prays 213:24
<b>plus</b> 129:11	14:19 83:14	preboard 113:12
plying 100:6 194:10	<b>portion</b> 95:7,10	preclude 192:9
pneumonia 126:18	portrait 27:15	preconviction 41:3
pocket 188:8	portrayed 117:7	predator 78:19 100:5
<b>point</b> 16:3,3 19:7 34:7 35:2	pose 225:23	predicate 195:11
37:22 43:9 61:16 63:16	posed 10:19	predispositional 9:18
64:11 71:5 103:22 125:4	<b>position</b> 37:11 92:4 98:7	predominantly 116:9
132:9 143:7 146:5 147:7	100:19 133:23 173:18	prejudice 145:8
186:2,15 189:15,15 191:8	199:10	prejudices 234:14
191:9 195:9 214:5 226:4	<b>positive</b> 18:7 22:13 64:10	preliminary 4:10 7:12
227:2	72:15 89:6 144:19 149:13	17:24 19:19 22:3 34:5,6
pointed 22:2	165:4 177:20 180:7,7,8	84:24 191:10 222:12,19
<b>points</b> 34:16 86:14	213:12	225:5
<b>police</b> 39:14 40:2,2 44:16	<b>possession</b> 194:2 195:17,18	preparation 161:5
45:7 55:7,8 83:4 84:6	215:2,5	prepare 80:9 220:14
91:15,24 92:23 93:22	possessions 62:2	prepared 122:7 248:10
94:18 95:2 99:17 100:18	possibilities 94:22 98:6	preparedness 225:12
106:19 153:24 154:23	<b>possibility</b> 46:5 190:23	preparing 193:19
156:14 189:7,22,23 206:3	210:9	preplea 41:8
234:23	possible 5:24 48:2 52:21	prerelease 117:10 197:13
polices 154:2	53:12 89:9 97:10 117:9	presence 248:4
policies 200:20,21 202:5	121:16 160:21 179:6	present 3:5 20:20 47:23
policing 44:19 92:18	180:4	59:7 82:19 117:22 206:7
policy 55:11 86:24 92:2	possibly 100:2 150:9	presentation 34:18 113:23
159:12 198:10 199:22	postrelease 225:3	presented 106:20 161:10
203:14 222:16 227:6	potential 11:17 227:12	presentence 9:5,7 10:22
229:15	potentially 146:7	41:4,9 42:6,10,16 112:16
political 52:7 53:12 149:14	pound 87:5	140:6 226:14
238:4	poverty 74:14 175:20	presenting 30:12
<b>politics</b> 154:17 <b>Poll</b> 210:12	177:4,5 213:13 power 51:11 155:2 161:9	presently 31:22 preservation 69:3
<b>POMC</b> 118:21	167:17 190:15 213:21	president 20:11 34:3 83:3
poor 49:14 50:7 52:9 59:18	powerful 135:13	157:21 190:10 221:23
90:13 150:18 151:18	<b>Pozzi</b> 2:9 33:15,21 41:10	President's 115:22
152:17 158:4 161:3,13	42:14 43:13,20 44:12	pressure 59:13 115:20
231:24 242:8	<b>practical</b> 69:6	pretense 86:2
poorest 50:5	practice 5:11,13 10:23	pretrial 10:8 14:3 140:7
poorly 50:4	12:22 14:14,18 19:18	163:16,17 226:20
P		100.10,17 220.20

		Page 285
pretty 69:6 245:17	199:5,7 200:16 209:4,8	44:3,5,7 67:21 77:21
prevent 46:19 53:17	209:13 210:2 215:19	95:17 100:14 101:6 107:7
127:22,23 175:19 210:14	217:6,16 222:24 225:9	107:19 109:10 110:21
prevented 69:11 74:5,24	227:21 228:10,18 232:11	189:14 191:14
<b>prevention</b> 56:22 96:4	234:15 239:12,12,18	<b>probationer</b> 16:2,5,8,15
127:21 128:3 156:18	242:18 243:16 244:2	38:22
173:19 174:23	prisoner 204:7	probationers 8:20 13:4
prevents 198:19	prisoners 89:24 177:12	16:10
previously 26:10 105:15	184:24 198:17	probations 15:10
174:5	<b>prisons</b> 22:5 52:3,14,18	Probation's 39:13
preying 100:7	53:13,21 61:15,16,24	<b>problem</b> 50:24 58:2 64:3
price 152:19 233:12	62:6,9,17 63:16,19,21	65:4,22 69:8 99:21
primarily 52:6 57:2	64:2 83:10,17 89:16	114:19 120:11 124:6
primary 11:15 54:10 80:22	104:8 133:2 134:3 161:4	129:12 135:2 136:23
176:16 198:21	162:5 167:12 168:7	154:4,5 178:4 184:13
<b>prime</b> 74:13	171:14 180:10 190:15	199:3 212:3 216:11
principal 19:19	198:16 209:13 242:9	225:16 238:23 245:10
principle 227:5	private 4:19 5:11,13 56:19	<b>problems</b> 10:23 30:16
principles 162:9	86:19 102:6 197:8	32:19 53:23 64:18 66:22
printed 157:9	privately 204:19	73:7 156:18 179:20,22
prior 64:3 192:6 207:12	privatization 86:11,20	182:21 184:10 225:20
215:7 216:8 223:4	87:22	procedure 117:20 201:9
priorities 86:16	privilege 4:5	procedures 205:6 207:15
priority 75:23	privileged 108:15	proceed 205:11
<b>prison</b> 8:2,17,19 9:9 12:4	privileges 208:22	process 11:2 15:2 17:23
24:5,19 27:10 28:7,9,12	<b>pro</b> 18:5	49:18 51:20 56:11 60:16
50:18 52:4,6,22 53:16	probability 225:19	60:18,20 66:24 71:8 72:6
54:2,12 57:3,14 61:8,21	probably 86:15 96:19	79:7 85:9 90:23 91:4
62:4 63:2,23 64:9,17,20	166:6 167:8 168:12	97:10 100:11 101:19
66:2 69:24 73:15 74:15	169:11 216:6 219:17	114:8 120:16 126:23
74:17 76:15 84:18 85:18	220:7 236:13	176:13,15 179:2 181:14
88:15,20 89:12,13,18,18	probation 6:7,15 7:18,21	183:7 212:9 224:11,14
89:22 90:3,12,14,14,22	8:3,7,13,15 9:3,15 10:3,7	247:12
90:23,24 91:3,6 103:16	10:19 11:5,8,14,23,24	processed 190:7
104:16 105:24 106:2	12:7,10,17,21,21 13:9,10	processes 227:11
107:21 108:8 110:3,13	13:15,19,19,21 14:5,8,9	<b>produce</b> 123:6,6
111:2 118:13 119:3 129:2	14:18 15:3,16,19,21	produced 11:6 15:20
131:17,19 132:7 134:22	16:13,16 17:12,19,20	122:23
137:4 150:22 151:16	18:4,8,14,17 19:16 33:16	<b>Producing</b> 7:10
152:6 159:21 164:21	34:2 35:4,6,11,18,23 36:2	product 42:8,11 104:12
167:9,23 168:22,23 170:2	36:14,15 37:5,10,16 38:6	productive 103:12 178:14
175:3,6 176:12 178:19	38:10,13,15,18,19 39:3,8	products 208:20 209:9
180:15 185:19 186:18	39:11,15 40:3,11 41:5,13	profession 144:14
189:14 191:15,21 193:5	41:17 42:21 43:2,3,11,24	professional 7:9 92:19

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc. 11/15

	1715/2007, Albany, 141, 1 ubie Hearn	Page 286
130:8 136:14 138:20	<b>project</b> 39:13,20 40:4 51:2	protection 86:16 87:3
182:2 184:24 200:8	130:4,12 131:13 146:21	117:15
professionalism 83:16	148:8 182:16	protections 117:23
<b>Professionally</b> 136:11	projects 145:12 153:15	protocols 133:16
professionals 138:15	proliferated 192:23	proud 21:19
139:17 140:13	proliferation 26:15	proudly 83:19
profiled 144:15	promise 25:23	prove 61:2 75:19 195:22
profiling 151:22 241:22,23	promising 226:12 228:4	proven 80:4 85:12 96:9
242:3,6 245:21 246:13	229:19	113:13 207:11
profound 159:18	<b>promote</b> 49:6 51:18 52:10	<b>provide</b> 14:19,22 38:6
program 10:9 26:2 29:18	58:6	42:24 60:19 63:4,6 65:8
30:15 39:21 57:15 64:19	prompt 79:8	67:19 71:5 83:8,21,24
65:2,18 74:16 79:22	proper 198:14	104:9 114:22 165:12
80:23 90:10 102:9 103:18	properly 93:17	198:16 225:14
104:6,20 105:8,13 113:12	properties 68:12	provided 12:5 108:18
114:22 131:2,10 138:4,22	property 145:6,15,16,21	109:2 198:14 248:12
142:10 149:2 167:5 168:6	146:7,15	provider 173:20
175:9,11,14,24 176:4,10	proponents 190:14	<b>providers</b> 71:13 174:24
183:18 191:24 224:19	proportion 39:2	<b>provides</b> 10:4 23:12 27:5
227:2,10	proportionate 104:13	42:24 60:11 61:3 86:18
programming 23:13 30:5	proposal 7:12 22:3,17,23	221:24
56:7 98:16 121:21 143:23	23:2 25:15 192:4	providing 8:9 10:3 15:8
144:12 162:2 164:6	proposals 182:3	67:11 87:8 173:15 183:3
174:14,17 177:17 178:7	proposed 64:23 87:10	187:6
180:19 219:11	proposing 53:8 179:9	proving 150:15
programmings 181:2	proprietary 80:16	<b>provision</b> 25:16 28:13
programs 10:6,8,11,12	propriety 138:2	95:21,22 96:2
11:19 15:7,17 18:18 26:9	proscecutorial 25:18 29:7	provisions 94:16
28:10,17 31:5,7,9 55:12	prosecuted 189:11	psyche 57:22
64:16 65:2,8 69:14 71:16	prosecution 26:18 93:23	psychometric 15:11
74:3 85:16,19 102:17	160:22	psychotherapy 105:18
104:7,23 105:16 123:20	prosecutor 21:18 31:14	<b>public</b> 1:4 4:10,16 8:8 19:5
135:20 152:22 162:24	211:11	22:21 23:24 24:4 48:3
163:16,24 164:13 166:24	prosecutors 20:22 22:17	49:8,13 51:19 54:10,11
167:17,17,19,23 169:8	23:8,9,18 26:11 27:16	54:16,23 55:11,17,23
170:2,3,4,13,20,21	28:20 30:21 31:7,22	56:19,21 57:11,17 58:6
173:16 174:3 180:20,22	190:14 195:22	59:14 86:18 87:3,6 105:4
181:20 187:7 190:21,22	prosocial 228:5	106:4,23 107:8,11,14
193:10 195:14 202:10	prospect 89:19	108:17 111:14,20 127:11
219:13 225:13	prospective 136:4	127:13 128:13 129:9,17
progress 100:13 161:19	prostitute 99:5	129:17 131:22 132:12
progressive 22:23 58:5	<b>protect</b> 85:7 107:14 195:11	135:9,10 143:15 145:11
91:7	protected 138:24 139:2	159:8,9 164:2 185:20
prohibits 202:7	protecting 107:16	193:21 197:4,11,17 198:3
	_	

		Page 287
198:20 201:20,23 218:9	95:6,16 98:2,4 99:19	range 53:16 95:2 98:12,13
222:16,17 223:15 225:23	136:16 137:19 161:16	187:7
227:6,14,16 228:12	191:20 246:20,22	rangers 84:7
229:15 240:16,16	questioned 206:7	ranges 23:16
pull 72:20 73:3 229:8	questioned 200.7 questions 48:8 87:14 88:10	ranging 174:12
<b>Pulliam</b> 2:16 148:17,21,22	91:11 107:11 113:20,22	ranking 22:4 58:24
148:24 149:3,4 156:24	205:7 229:21 237:11	rape 209:2
171:22	quick 43:16	rapidly 184:22
punishment 50:21 51:7	quickly 6:16 12:21 18:2	rapists 83:13
52:3,11,15 57:14,20	66:22 98:18	rarely 177:17
180:11 208:11	quiet 170:9	raspy 126:18
punitive 104:2	quietly 169:23	rate 64:11 112:5 168:12
purchase 152:20	quit 219:4	209:19 210:23
purpose 187:2	quite 86:17 94:10 101:15	rates 16:17 73:5 108:18
purpose-sensitive 85:3	177:14 229:5 235:8	177:11,18 189:18 204:9
pursing 87:4	<b>quote</b> 73:19 90:23 159:3,12	210:20
pursue 86:11,24	159:15 160:5,22 162:10	rational 114:18
pursuing 88:7	162:11 208:12	rationale 86:20
purview 9:11	<b>quotes</b> 28:12 96:20	reach 135:19 143:18
pushed 233:9		185:24
<b>put</b> 23:17 49:18 68:16 69:9	$\mathbf{R}$	reached 59:18 121:23
75:5 78:15,19 83:11	rabbis 184:6	123:2
115:3 121:21 147:2 152:5	racial 66:5 151:22 238:3	react 18:2
185:5 187:4 222:14 240:7	241:22,23 242:3,5 245:21	read 4:11 6:17 18:11 34:10
240:8 241:23 243:16	246:13	35:12 40:18 81:8 84:23
244:18 245:15	racially 62:12	166:10
<b>puts</b> 160:20 161:15	racism 238:20 241:17,17	readiness 225:10
<b>putting</b> 54:12 75:6 111:18	241:19 246:10	reading 97:11 122:8 185:5
238:11	racist 52:7	ready 90:10 132:13 134:13
<b>p.m</b> 1:11 126:2 217:23	radical 150:2 243:19,19 raged 192:21	136:13
221:5,7 247:17	rajed 192.21 raise 49:11 92:13 101:18	<b>Reagan</b> 238:9
Q	125:17	real 25:23 46:8,9 59:15
qualified 197:7	raised 22:16 31:20 185:16	75:9 114:18 115:18
qualify 103:5	raising 148:4	126:22 155:2 176:11
qualifying 159:6	Ramirez 2:17 172:20 173:4	195:13 214:12,12 216:10
qualitative 14:22	173:5,8 182:10,11,13	216:16 235:9 239:5
quality 69:23 126:6 227:4	183:13	realistic 79:3,12 201:14 202:23 203:15
quantitative 14:21	<b>RAMY</b> 222:9	
quantities 25:8	ran 142:21	realistically 23:16 41:8 reality 11:22 27:17 161:2,8
quantity 194:3	<b>Ranalli</b> 2:13 91:14,15,17	161:16 174:20 177:13
quarter 147:17	101:15	179:8 193:12
Queensborough 132:3	<b>Randy</b> 3:4 220:24 237:20	realization 96:17
question 40:21 62:11 84:20	238:2	realize 32:8 94:3 119:22
<b>`</b>		1 currer 52.0 7 T.J 117.22

		Page 288
159:22 183:11 192:20	recognition 162:14 168:2,3	193:4 202:6,11 222:20
201:19 216:5	223:21	reductions 44:23 193:15
really 19:13 33:23 35:5	recognize 7:3 19:15,23	reenter 232:12
36:20,21 37:13 39:19	20:5 78:23 91:5 120:23	reentering 231:17
40:10,22 45:8 82:4 96:2	167:16 174:22 180:24	reentry 6:9 18:23 37:5
96:11 125:4 126:20	184:9 208:15	56:23 64:16,19,24 65:2
130:13 135:18,21 137:6	recognized 151:19 176:10	65:20 67:13 71:5,8 82:4
143:22 146:17,18 166:6	177:22 208:8 225:15	90:23,24 103:17 104:13
167:15 171:12 180:12	recognizes 12:18	105:11 113:11,12,14
183:23 185:8 214:15	recommend 58:5 192:5	121:5 127:2 131:13
216:2,3,12 217:14 219:11	198:9 201:9 203:13 240:3	132:23 135:20 145:17
225:9 230:3 235:22	246:12	164:4,7 166:22 168:4,6
243:12 245:3 247:13	recommendation 54:4 80:2	171:2,23 172:6 173:23
realm 132:22	87:22 117:17 139:18	175:14 180:20 182:16
rearrest 16:3	158:16,18 197:13 198:8	183:7 196:24,24 204:9
reason 42:3 149:14 153:10	recommendations 18:10	219:23 221:19,22 222:2
169:8 186:9 191:11 192:7	19:19 51:9,23 66:21	223:3,5,10 224:2 225:8
208:14 211:20	84:24 94:13 197:11	228:2,21
reasonably 101:4	220:14 227:18	reexamine 200:15
reasons 16:18 97:7 123:15	<b>recommended</b> 14:23 95:23	reexamined 200:13,20
161:3	139:23 198:2	<b>reference</b> 80:11 231:5
reassessment 14:17	recommends 198:13	referral 130:11
<b>REC</b> 167:5 170:3	record 34:11 64:5 80:4	referrals 176:21 224:23,24
receive 50:5 66:3 97:14	131:15 153:12 185:6	referred 175:15
118:24 121:20 153:22	188:19 189:5 193:7	<b>refine</b> 226:16
182:24	207:21 210:2 216:7	reflects 11:8 195:19
received 175:11 176:4	248:10	<b>reform</b> 1:3 2:1 3:1 4:1,6
receives 175:8	records 39:17	5:1 6:1 7:1,6,12,14 8:1
receiving 4:9 198:20	recover 103:12	9:1 10:1,17 11:1,16,17
recess 125:22 221:5	recovery 72:4 76:18 77:9	12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1
recharge 151:16	103:11,15 127:21 128:4	17:1,2 18:1 19:1 20:1,21
recharged 150:24 151:12 recidivate 111:23	144:7,19 191:5,18 recreation 68:3 70:14 84:8	21:1,13 22:1,3 23:1 24:1 25:1,4 26:1 27:1,15 28:1
recidivated 109:17,24	recruit 71:22 77:15	28:5 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1
recidivism 8:8 15:19 16:2	rectory 68:7,8,17	33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1 37:1
16:23 64:21 106:18	redheaded 35:16	38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1 42:1
108:18 112:5 129:18	reduce 8:8 25:11,14 135:3	43:1 44:1,10 45:1,17 46:1
163:4 168:12 177:11	163:4 222:21	47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1
209:19 210:20,23 222:21	reduced 22:8 25:7 39:4	51:21 52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1
226:6 227:13	80:6 186:13 193:3 195:5	56:1 57:1,2,5 58:1 59:1,4
recidivist 111:5	201:17 203:3 227:13,13	59:6,8,11,20,22 60:1,11
recidivists 100:23	reducing 16:23 45:24	60:13 61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1
reclassification 15:12	202:8	65:1 66:1,15 67:1,2 68:1
41:19	reduction 46:6,22 162:10	69:1 70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1

		Page 289
74:1 75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1	244:1 245:1 246:1 247:1	reinvestment 57:13
79:1 80:1 81:1 82:1 83:1	248:1	reiterate 164:24
84:1,14,22 85:1 86:1 87:1	<b>reformed</b> 210:10	reiterated 10:21
88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1 92:1	<b>reformer's</b> 191:9	reject 27:9
93:1 94:1 95:1 96:1 97:1	reforming 216:13	related 23:16 65:23 95:15
98:1,20 99:1 100:1 101:1	<b>reforms</b> 51:15 149:12	159:11 164:21 188:18
102:1,2 103:1 104:1,4	refused 197:7	225:10
105:1 106:1 107:1 108:1	refusing 66:17	relations 53:19 109:17
109:1 110:1 111:1 112:1	regard 26:24 27:14 72:21	111:20,21 143:15
113:1 114:1 115:1 116:1	163:8	relationship 52:5 178:8
116:6,7,8 117:1 118:1	regarding 82:19 102:7	179:20 181:14
119:1 120:1 121:1,4	106:5 208:21	relationships 71:13 178:10
122:1 123:1 124:1 125:1	regards 113:23 163:10	181:16 219:17 228:5
126:1,22 127:1 128:1	regime 136:21	relative 128:23
129:1 130:1 131:1 132:1	<b>Region</b> 102:20 158:11	relatively 186:13 204:24
133:1 134:1 135:1 136:1	regional 89:12	relaxed 72:14
137:1 138:1 139:1 140:1	<b>Regis</b> 29:16	<b>release</b> 23:11,14 24:6,15
141:1 142:1 143:1 144:1	register 107:12 110:9	64:19 104:9 112:4,9,22
145:1 146:1 147:1 148:1	118:23 119:3	113:5,8,15 116:23 117:9
149:1 150:1 151:1 152:1	<b>registered</b> 37:4 119:11	117:12 119:7,17 121:16
153:1 154:1 155:1 156:1	120:11	123:20,23 124:14 140:7,7
157:1 158:1 159:1 160:1	registering 107:6	160:13 163:18 179:3
161:1 162:1 163:1 164:1	registration 110:17	197:19 198:4,18 199:4
165:1 166:1 167:1 168:1	registrations 110:11	201:13 203:15,18 225:9
169:1 170:1 171:1 172:1	registry 110:2,13,24 111:9	released 24:2 47:7,18
173:1 174:1 175:1 176:1	Regrettably 51:8 59:17	65:12 70:21 77:24 84:18
177:1 178:1 179:1 180:1	regular 202:17	85:24 108:23 113:8
181:1 182:1 183:1 184:1	regularly 177:10 223:12	117:16 119:2 122:19
185:1 186:1 187:1 188:1	224:3	129:10 134:24 172:8
189:1 190:1,14 191:1	regulating 10:2	177:12 183:4 199:5,21
192:1 193:1 194:1 195:1	regulation 12:2,2,5 14:21	228:11,15 231:15
196:1 197:1 198:1 199:1 200:1 201:1 202:1 203:1	198:10 rehabilitate 53:3 163:21	releasees 224:17
200.1 201.1 202.1 203.1 204:1 205:1 205:1 206:1 207:1	rehabilitation 30:9 65:21	releasing 108:20 relevant 90:14
204.1 205.1 200.1 207.1 208:1 209:1 210:1 211:1	80:20 104:2 180:12,14	relief 61:4 244:17
212:1 213:1 214:1 215:1	rehabilitative 210:13	relocating 130:6
216:1,23 217:1 218:1	reimbursement 39:3	rely 31:16 187:8
219:1 220:1 221:1 222:1	reincarcerated 177:12	relying 50:13
223:1 224:1 225:1 226:1	reincarceration 179:9	remaining 109:10 133:20
227:1 228:1 229:1 230:1	reinforce 18:6	219:16
230:19 231:1,20 232:1	reinstating 104:4	remarkable 222:13
233:1 234:1,10 235:1	reintegrate 103:12	remarks 6:18 10:18 31:16
236:1 237:1 238:1 239:1	reintegrating 187:5	43:8 84:11 220:19 222:7
240:1 241:1 242:1 243:1	reintegration 37:5	remember 29:22 99:23

	-	Page 290
130:21 207:10 214:10	request 109:5 149:20	respective 8:23 65:12
reminiscent 49:17	requested 99:14	87:12
<b>remote</b> 89:16	requests 28:21	respond 17:21 190:19
remove 75:2	require 118:5 190:22,23	response 160:5
<b>removed</b> 217:10	198:12	responses 56:3 196:23
removing 28:11 59:22	required 24:14 25:9 32:6	responsibilities 25:2 55:18
rendered 6:22	requirement 68:24 107:5	responsibility 134:5,7
renovate 68:24	198:8	207:8 237:4
rental 75:11	requirements 80:14,21	<b>responsible</b> 111:4,8 178:14
reoffended 210:21	123:20	rest 88:2,2 101:10 110:23
reoffending 71:3	requires 17:18 23:24 31:23	169:12 208:6 210:3
repeal 59:23 66:17 164:24	195:22 197:15	restaurant 79:15
repealing 59:9	research 23:4 50:21 55:21	restaurants 79:17
repeatedly 28:20 125:2	96:6,16 129:6 162:23	restitution 117:13
replay 94:2	researcher 19:24	restoring 19:3
replicated 90:21	resemble 178:9	restrictions 68:23 69:3
report 4:10 6:22 7:10 9:8	resentencing 60:16,18,20	restructure 59:16
10:22,24 11:4,6,7,12	123:18,19 216:17 217:3	restructuring 175:11
15:11 17:24 18:5 19:20	242:15	result 36:2 44:24 51:17
20:4 34:5,6,20 40:10 41:9	Reservation 29:17	55:13 64:24 69:4 96:11
42:7 51:24 60:6 64:2,7,9	reserve 92:13 104:11	103:7,24 107:20,21
65:5 87:23 93:6 95:10	reshape 14:20	110:20,21 177:18 196:7
98:14 106:20 112:16	reside 110:3	199:16 200:6 203:10
127:3,3 140:6 146:23	resident 121:9	223:13 227:15
159:14 160:6,20 162:12	residential 130:18,24	resulted 7:13 46:2 69:18 155:5 165:3 200:23
191:10 197:2,12 198:13	138:22 residents 8:11 56:18 71:18	results 11:16 111:15,18
198:23,24 212:6 218:20 222:12,12,19 225:5	71:22 72:14 106:7 108:3	119:10
232:12,12,19 225.5	167:5	resume 125:19
reported 64:11 109:12	residing 110:5	resumed 125:24 221:6
<b>Reporter</b> 248:14	resolve 122:23	resumes 80:10
Reporters 248:11	resonated 121:5 247:13	retain 77:19
reports 9:5,19 15:22 32:12	resource 12:19 39:15 41:6	retention 80:9
32:15 44:20 50:8	56:22	retirees 172:12
represent 82:23 83:19	<b>resources</b> 11:9 14:19 28:17	retirement 89:9
103:5 105:8 111:24 112:8	28:18 29:7,18 30:17,22	retreat 167:10 171:7
180:17 181:5 241:2	31:3 36:19 40:4,12 44:6,8	retreats 167:11 169:5,18
representative 81:24	56:20 57:14 90:15 138:21	return 24:5 27:19 47:8
representatives 115:5	150:14 161:24 162:2	69:11 76:23,23 124:8
221:21 233:18	173:15 182:18,20 189:7	180:17 181:6,7
represented 111:3 182:17	226:5 229:10	returned 24:19 178:19,20
representing 5:5 28:2	respect 50:2 84:13 165:8	215:13 217:16 227:21
<b>represents</b> 58:22 83:6	207:5	228:10
197:6	respectfully 149:20	returning 24:16 69:24 84:4
		_

		Page 291
174:13 175:5 178:23	rnbr/tbc/pllm 248:17	rules 89:17 101:5,6
179:12 180:13,21 228:18	road 128:4 191:5,18	rulings 88:23
reunions 167:12	<b>Robb</b> 2:18 172:17 183:17	<b>run</b> 167:23
<b>REV</b> 142:13 147:8,11	<b>robber</b> 105:13	running 172:12 220:20
148:7,11	robbery 88:20 188:10	<b>rural</b> 29:22 32:10
<b>Reverend</b> 142:13 148:12	239:13	<b>Russell</b> 243:11
149:7 171:21	<b>robbing</b> 105:22 155:23	<b>R.E.C</b> 167:5
reverse 22:13	<b>Robert</b> 2:8,18 6:5,12 54:24	
review 16:24 18:12 57:4	139:22 187:17	<u>S</u>
82:20 84:17,20 133:15	<b>Roberts</b> 248:2,14	<b>s</b> 32:5 191:8
141:9 159:5	<b>Rocco</b> 2:9 33:14 43:20 44:2	sacred 53:14
reviewed 24:8	<b>Rochester</b> 69:13 158:12	sacrifice 233:13
reviewing 119:23	197:5 221:24	sad 96:22
revocation 65:19 200:6	<b>rock</b> 136:13	safe 23:2 67:20 76:17
reward 75:6 99:14	<b>Rockefeller</b> 59:9,20 61:5	85:11 146:13,15
rewarding 72:12 82:4	63:9,12 65:23 66:15	safer 10:10 21:2 22:19
re-sentence 242:16	121:13 150:8 158:18	39:19,22 211:2
<b>RICO</b> 150:3 174:5	164:24 184:3 186:21	safest 21:20 83:17
<b>rid</b> 239:11,16	214:19 216:13 230:19,21	safety 8:8 19:5 22:22 23:24
ridiculous 179:15	231:5 234:10 240:23	24:4 45:21 46:23 47:19
<b>right</b> 4:24 85:8 96:19 98:8	241:18 243:3,5 245:4	48:3 49:8 51:19 54:10,11
98:9 99:3 101:16 114:6	rode 189:20	54:16,23 55:17,23 56:21
124:13 128:14 133:12	<b>role</b> 19:16 20:23 37:3,5	58:7 76:20 83:20,22
135:14 141:24 157:13	39:12,13 40:11 43:11	87:11 127:13 128:13
164:18 166:6,14 183:24	54:9,15 66:9 71:4 91:6	129:9,17 131:22 135:10
186:5 202:22 206:6,20	105:9 120:3 133:11	164:3 179:21 218:9
207:24 218:14,20 236:24	155:21,22 174:23 181:5	222:17 223:15 225:24
237:2,12 239:2 240:9	203:17 211:11 236:17	227:14 228:12
242:6	roles 21:17 178:9	salaries 178:22
<b>rights</b> 49:4 50:22 108:4,5	<b>roll</b> 45:6	sale 192:6,7 195:18 244:12 244:13
108:15,16 117:18,23	Rooks 55:2	
206:5	room 1:12 121:2 171:13	sample 32:13,16
rigor 226:23	229:15	samples 32:2 sanction 199:6 228:13
<b>rigors</b> 170:22	Roosevelt 239:10	sanctions 18:4 27:21 52:24
<b>Rikers</b> 142:24	root 55:14	54:21 227:19
<b>rip</b> 76:13	round 30:3 41:18	satisfaction 55:9
risk 7:23 13:3,5,8 14:12,16	routine 224:14 227:3	satisfy 201:3 202:22
40:23 41:14,15,24 42:5	row 189:17	save 34:12 86:20 87:2
42:19 71:3 97:22 129:18	<b>Rudolph</b> 239:7	savings 227:12
163:6 190:23 209:14	<b>Rudy</b> 239:8,15	saw 19:23 70:4 143:7,17,24
225:21,23	<b>ruined</b> 66:19	143:24 144:6,17,20,20
risks 163:11 risk/need 42:23	<b>rule</b> 18:7 47:3 69:5 200:11	167:3 188:7 243:6
risk/needs 19:17	200:12 ruled 208:9	saying 34:13 78:11 115:17
1 15K/ HCCUS 17.1 /	1 ulcu 200.9	
	1	

		Page 292
140:22 151:9 156:6	74:20 77:11 79:3 95:11	sentence 8:3 23:16 35:8
239:15	95:17 98:6,8 99:16,17	45:17 47:9 66:6 86:4
says 21:23 35:15 36:9	101:18 124:10 134:6	88:23 95:21 121:15 136:4
111:22 199:17	143:20,21,21 153:6	136:4 170:11 179:19
scale 15:12	155:12,23 160:14 164:12	186:14 190:24 191:15
scam 240:6	172:6 184:13 194:13	194:18 195:2 211:13
scandals 245:24	195:21 196:2 198:9,16	216:2,2 228:11 239:13
scared 214:12,13	204:14 233:18 234:5	sentenced 66:7 84:18 89:5
scattered 114:20	241:7,11	94:10 118:12 209:7,7
scenario 119:12	seeing 115:18	210:19,22 215:17
schedule 125:14 196:10	seek 27:10,18 233:8	sentences 23:10,15,21 25:7
220:21 221:4	seeking 25:11 159:7	25:8 27:16 35:21 52:6
scheduled 119:4 125:19	seemingly 111:12	86:10 98:13 107:24
181:15 224:3 233:7 247:5	seen 35:19 37:19 39:12	116:18 118:3,5 149:12
scheduling 18:14	92:22 155:8 156:5,14	150:23 186:24 192:22,24
scheme 24:22	161:13 169:9,17 173:20	193:2,16 195:8 242:24
Schenectady 187:22 188:5	185:3,4,10 218:10,11	sentencing 1:3 2:1 3:1 4:1
188:8,9,11,13 189:3,21	227:24 228:9	4:6,20 5:1 6:1 7:1,6,11,14
234:24	sees 46:7 213:12,16,22	8:1 9:1,9 10:1,17 11:1,2
schizophrenic 36:10	seizure 92:10	11:16,17 12:1 13:1 14:1
school 64:6 80:16 92:6	select 240:5	15:1 16:1,24 17:1 18:1
96:5 150:23 153:11 233:5	selected 31:24	19:1 20:1,21,23 21:1,13
schools 50:5 151:3	Self 142:9	22:1 23:1,6,7,9 24:1,11
science 41:16 162:10	selfish 123:15	24:12,22 25:1,4,10 26:1
207:24 222:19	self-help 162:24	27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1
scope 89:20 97:8	self-medicate 155:9	31:21 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1
Scout 97:13,15	sell 62:13 195:19	36:1 37:1,9 38:1 39:1
screen 14:4	seller 140:15	40:1 41:1 42:1 43:1 44:1
screening 84:7	selling 62:3 156:11 178:21	44:10 45:1 46:1,5 47:1
sealed 189:9	244:18	48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1,2,14
search 92:9 232:15	senate 58:23 59:4 60:5	51:21 52:1,4 53:1 54:1
seat 30:2 204:3 212:23	69:20 242:4	55:1,13 56:1 57:1,2,5,6,7
second 18:13 28:6,8,14	Senate's 58:24	58:1 59:1,3,6,8 60:1,13
47:6 54:4 55:24 215:6	Senator 58:16,18,20,22	61:1 62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1
223:21	59:9 60:6,9 63:10 64:13	66:1,9 67:1,2 68:1 69:1
secondly 216:22	64:23 66:13,13,19	70:1 71:1 72:1 73:1 74:1
Secretary 7:5	send 17:15 219:9	75:1 76:1 77:1 78:1 79:1
section 74:3 196:24	sending 211:4	80:1 81:1 82:1,21 83:1
sector 86:18,19	seniors 73:13 76:11,19	84:1,14,21 85:1 86:1,7
sectors 16:19	sense 23:8 63:7 93:12 95:4	87:1 88:1 89:1,6 90:1
security 83:19,21,21,24,24	180:7 191:13 213:11	91:1 92:1 93:1 94:1,14,16
84:7,9 87:11 163:20	234:3	94:24 95:1,13,14 96:1
198:18 224:8	sent 61:7,21 63:21,23	97:1,18 98:1,20 99:1
see 44:22 46:9,15 52:6 74:9	64:17	100:1 101:1 102:1,2
	- · · · · ·	

Page	293

		Page 293
103:1,21,23 104:1,4,14	serious 23:23 28:19 38:5	seventeen 9:19 37:24 39:5
105:1 106:1 107:1 108:1	65:22 97:9 190:24 205:16	190:5 204:12 205:20
109:1 110:1,15 111:1	seriously 51:22 96:18	206:14 208:23 209:23
112:1,4,15 113:1 114:1	seriousness 50:23 184:10	seventeen-plus 188:15
115:1 116:1,6,8,9 117:1,3	serve 23:11 34:3 75:17	seventy 38:23 76:5 129:10
118:1,7 119:1,23 120:1	85:4 127:19 131:21	134:23
121:1 122:1,22 123:1,7	132:16 134:11 135:3	seventy-five 47:16 167:9
124:1 125:1 126:1,23	229:10	202:13
127:1 128:1 129:1 130:1	served 102:15 105:14	Seventy-four 64:6
131:1 132:1 133:1 134:1	121:7 126:24 211:16	seventy-one 79:21 188:16
135:1 136:1 137:1 138:1	217:5 228:13	seventy-two 18:13
139:1 140:1 141:1 142:1	serves 72:7 110:4	severity 23:17 228:7
143:1 144:1 145:1 146:1	service 10:8,20 58:12	Seward 238:18,23
147:1 148:1 149:1 150:1	78:16 80:22 82:2 83:24	sex 8:22 37:2,3 38:4 102:7
151:1 152:1 153:1 154:1	132:5 134:18 163:16	102:22 106:13,14,17,18
155:1 156:1 157:1 158:1	164:15 176:3 226:19	102.22 100.13,14,17,18
159:1,4,12,21 160:1,8,21	227:4	109:8,12,16,19,21,23
161:1,17 162:1 163:1	serviced 6:20	110:4,9,12,24 111:14
164:1 165:1 166:1 167:1	services 1:2 8:10 14:4	112:23 113:24 114:4,12
168:1,4 169:1 170:1,10	35:24 38:7,18,20 39:3	114:20 208:24 209:5
170:15,24 171:1 172:1	57:17 65:6,13,15 71:6,10	224:21 225:4
173:1 174:1 175:1 176:1	71:12 72:7,7 80:20 89:21	sexual 209:2
177:1 178:1 179:1 180:1	90:9 92:15 99:9 102:11	sex-offender 106:5
181:1 182:1 183:1 184:1	102:21 118:24 119:18	shame 162:22
185:1 186:1 187:1 188:1	127:12 130:17 132:21	shamed 133:9
189:1 190:1 191:1 192:1	133:13,23 171:24 172:2	shameful 165:2
193:1 194:1 195:1 196:1	173:9,16,22 175:17 176:5	shape 53:19 243:12
197:1 198:1 199:1 200:1	176:21,22,23 183:3	shaping 7:14
201:1 202:1 203:1,13	196:22 197:15,24 198:11	share 72:23 106:22 120:4
204:1 205:1 206:1 207:1	209:16,17 210:13 224:12	125:9 220:18 230:20
208:1 209:1 210:1 211:1	226:20	237:3
211:3 212:1 213:1 214:1	serving 71:11 100:23	shared 13:15 15:20 200:12
215:1,9 216:1 217:1,5	105:19 121:12,14 150:22	Sharon 3:8 148:14,18,20
218:1 219:1,14 220:1	151:17	157:2
221:1 222:1,17 223:1	set 10:4 11:14 24:9 79:3	sheets 80:11 212:5
224:1 225:1 226:1,2,14	101:4 122:15 167:22	shelters 74:8,8
227:1 228:1 229:1 230:1	203:14 218:16	shift 55:17 56:3
231:1 232:1 233:1 234:1	setting 161:6 174:24	shifting 57:13
235:1 236:1 237:1 238:1	204:19 219:2	shifts 55:8
239:1 240:1 241:1 242:1	settings 222:5	<b>Shock</b> 174:14
243:1 244:1 245:1 246:1	seven 16:3 63:3 64:12	shocking 63:13
247:1 248:1	134:14 143:13 167:11	<b>shoes</b> 46:14
separate 194:8	168:6,15 173:20 189:15	<b>shoot</b> 156:12,13
series 35:20 107:9 194:24	194:17 195:7	shooting 194:6
		č

	1715/2007, Albany, 191, 1 ubie Hearin	Page 294
<b>shop</b> 85:16	sit 174:18 178:17 232:19	small 31:4 175:12 177:24
<b>short</b> 134:14 135:5,12	235:10	241:15
<b>shorten</b> 169:11	site 4:12 15:23 17:11 143:4	smaller 17:19
<b>shorter</b> 193:15	165:11	smart 86:22
shortfall 36:18	sites 69:15 70:10,15	smiling 214:8
shortly 142:8	sitting 96:23 123:14 136:15	Smith 2:18 172:17,18
short-term 79:11	138:18 223:12 236:12	183:17,18,19,21 187:15
shot 86:3 147:21 215:10	situated 194:20 195:6	239:10
<b>shots</b> 32:23	situates 55:10	smokes 213:15
<b>show</b> 62:12 105:4 108:12	situation 123:16 136:24	smoking 209:12
131:9 177:11 218:23	147:13 149:17 152:4	smoothly 224:18
showed 110:2	199:15 214:11 215:16	Soares 90:9
showing 60:6 218:24	216:5 217:15	sober 26:9 70:14 76:17
shown 208:2	situations 161:12 175:23	143:6
shows 22:9 188:14 213:10	205:20 220:2	social 51:19 52:6 53:9,12
sibling 178:10,10	six 8:22 30:14 61:9,12	53:19,23 54:3 56:20 72:5
siblings 73:16 124:3	63:19 64:11 68:18,19	72:8 73:11 76:21 78:16
sic 63:15 64:10 148:23	102:12 105:7 158:8	163:19 173:19 180:3,8
149:8,13 200:15	166:10 183:9 194:4	197:15,24 198:11,17
<b>sick</b> 244:14	sixteen 16:8 105:14 204:11	224:8,11
side 96:15 173:11 196:23	205:18,20,23 206:14,18	socialize 145:18
sign 64:21 77:11 140:10	206:20 208:23,24 209:4,6	societal 57:22
206:9 208:19	209:23	society 47:8 53:15,20 69:12
significant 51:5 174:5	sixteen-year-old 185:14	70:12 103:13 112:8
178:18 194:17	sixty 38:15 64:5 76:7,8	138:24 144:12 163:19
significantly 16:18 51:11	83:9 109:9 139:8	184:19 211:2 231:17
silent 46:9	sixty-five 200:2	232:12 233:15,15
similar 177:14 210:18,18	sixty-seven 16:12	softening 27:9
219:24	sixty-six 225:2	sold 145:23 244:16
similarity 74:20	sixty-two 20:18 28:23 29:3	<b>sole</b> 46:11
similarly 194:20 195:6	29:24	solely 199:15
223:8 226:9	six-and-a-half-year 232:8	solid 64:16 164:5,15
simple 12:16 29:20 98:4	size 38:7 111:2	<b>Solomon</b> 240:21
100:9 127:21 179:24	<b>sizes</b> 12:8 38:2	solutions 48:2
195:17 206:9	<b>skill</b> 65:8	<b>solved</b> 53:23
simply 28:11 31:2 32:17	skills 99:21 160:12,17	solver 33:2
71:7 86:17 127:15 180:11	177:9 180:3 232:2	solving 57:24 178:4
simultaneously 22:8	skip 31:18 172:22	somebody 131:21 140:14
sincerely 116:12	<b>skipped</b> 48:10	141:7 144:12 192:6 194:7
<b>Sing</b> 239:14,14	slashed 194:7	194:19 245:13
single 17:16 117:19 124:4	slave 241:4	someone's 136:5
155:16 197:16	slavery 49:21 53:10,13,16	somewhat 16:23
<b>sip</b> 218:7	slogan 236:6	son 148:4 230:24 231:5,9
sir 82:7 115:8 148:15	slow 56:11	231:16 235:10

		Page 295
<b>soon</b> 71:24	spends 244:20	7:15,19,21 8:2,5,12,17,19
sooner 210:21	spent 92:6,17 127:22 129:6	9:9,12 10:3,21 11:13,24
sorry 5:21 24:23 101:13	219:8,10 239:12	12:2,2,4,5,22 13:7,10,12
137:22 148:15 159:14	spiked 189:4	14:24 16:17 18:17,24,24
200:3 203:23 207:20	spiritual 144:23	20:11,24 21:18,20,22,22
212:22	spite 106:15,16 111:18	22:3,5,6 23:24 26:16
sort 114:24 212:3 219:7	232:2	27:24 28:6 29:2,22 33:10
soulless 97:2	<b>Spitzer</b> 21:11 26:11 45:12	34:2,17 35:7,10,22 36:7,8
sound 55:20 110:7	51:24 147:13 238:11	37:19 38:14,17,20 39:2,6
<b>Sounds</b> 217:11	241:23	43:4 45:20,24 46:24 48:4
source 74:4	<b>spoke</b> 112:20 199:2	51:15 52:13 53:7,10
South 74:13 145:13	spring-back 96:2,13	56:12 57:6 59:4,6,12,15
southwest 172:20 173:11	Spruel 246:8	60:7,12 61:7,15,15,24
173:11	<b>St</b> 29:16 146:9	62:6,9,14,22 63:16,21
speak 6:2 44:9 48:23 92:21	stable 139:5	64:2,8,22 65:23 66:4,12
109:5 115:5 120:6 124:24	stacked 74:7	74:15 76:22 79:21 80:15
149:23 165:21 169:13	staff 7:9 15:20 58:16 68:4	80:16 81:23 82:3,4 83:2,3
183:22 230:18 231:11	175:3 176:5 178:8 182:4	83:8,22 84:2,17 86:21
speaker 20:10 33:14,16	221:24	87:2 89:12 90:21 91:5
44:15 48:17 82:12 101:20	staffing 11:5	105:14 106:12 107:15
115:11 120:22 126:7	staffs 178:3	108:20,23,24 109:14,21
142:2 172:24 203:21	stage 90:18 205:4,4	109:21 110:13,23 111:2,3
220:24	6	111:12 114:21 116:7
speakers 2:7 5:22,23	staggering 61:2,4 stake 184:19	119:24 121:6 122:2
125:16 126:4 220:22	stakeholders 229:8	124:23 126:23 134:10
236:13 247:5	stand 132:12 151:22	135:4 148:24 149:12
	standards 10:4 11:14	
<b>speaking</b> 29:11 67:15	14:24	157:22 158:9 159:3,15,16
111:7 180:17 217:7	-	159:19 164:8,14 165:10
230:24 231:3,13	standpoint 210:7	168:18 172:11,18 176:7
special 31:14 67:21 70:19	stands 132:13 194:8	180:15,23 182:16 183:18
118:20 164:11	<b>stand-up</b> 238:4	184:6,7 185:23 186:17,20
specialists 17:13 84:6	Star 149:6	189:7,22 193:5 195:20
specialty 197:4	start 4:23 27:6 90:10 92:24	197:23 199:8,19,24
specific 176:19 192:4	177:16 204:23 228:2	200:15 201:18,22 202:3,3
223:24	229:19	202:7,9,9,13,14,17,18
specifically 22:17 85:16	started 40:6 46:20 75:22	203:6 222:24 224:22
175:21	105:23 142:17,18 144:7	238:19 240:3,5,9 243:15
speeches 75:24	150:15 151:3 167:4,7	244:3
Speer 242:20,22	168:9 189:3 190:12	stated 26:10 159:10 248:4
spelling 80:5 170:4 242:11	221:16	statement 89:7 115:16
spellings 246:8	starting 34:7 54:8 71:5	122:8 157:10
spend 24:23,24 38:20 66:2	115:16 168:5 183:7	statements 133:3
113:7 136:15	starts 90:24 184:21	states 12:3,4 22:8 35:10
<b>spending</b> 38:22 227:16	state 1:2,3,13 5:8 6:14 7:11	162:21 167:21 200:13,14

296

		Page 29
200:20 205:22 242:2	strange 146:14 170:9,9	224:23
statewide 17:14 70:7	strangely 167:20,21	stunning 29:6
state's 8:14 10:5 28:2	strategic 229:11	<b>subcommittee</b> 6:21 19:14
62:17 63:17,19 82:20	strategies 55:22 57:10 79:5	127:2
109:5	219:23	subcommittees 7:7 33:19
statistic 70:9 188:15	strategy 127:20	subcommunities 104:21
statistical 44:20	streamline 110:15 120:15	subcultures 104:16
statistically 111:7 112:24	street 45:7,7 67:24 78:19	subject 36:7 159:5,10
113:8	153:13 154:2,10 155:16	202:4 209:3
statistics 34:19,21 61:2	156:13 189:24 240:12	submission 31:19
105:4 108:12,21,22 109:6	241:3	submit 149:22 155:4
111:5,22 128:22 168:11	streets 69:23 70:2 85:21	159:17 161:21 163:2,7
168:20 190:4	186:6 188:7 189:3,9,21	submitted 21:4,5 32:14
status 98:15	213:18 219:12	34:9 95:8 98:22 122:9
statute 78:18 197:15	street-level 194:10	223:18
199:11 211:9	strength 71:15 229:7	submitting 6:18 11:3
statutes 85:7	strengths 11:24 182:6	subsequently 109:23
statutory 35:22 199:12	<b>stress</b> 66:23	194:21 223:19
209:2	stressed 127:5	subsidized 74:2
stay 72:11 78:8 104:22	stretches 178:5	substance 26:12 64:18
154:13 171:6	<b>strict</b> 16:24	65:16 99:21 126:10 127:5
stayed 215:11	strictly 93:12	127:10,12,24 132:13
staying 193:15	strip-searched 246:3	133:13,22 175:19 179:20
stealing 243:8	strive 54:2	215:5
step 71:8 91:2 144:13	stroke 100:22	substances 26:23 126:14
171:2 230:7	strong 7:21 52:23 199:24	substance-abuse 176:23
stepchild 35:17	strongly 25:13 27:20 32:20	219:15
steps 26:14 28:5 232:17	85:15 86:9 94:5 118:2	substandard 50:4
step-down 225:8	197:12 198:15,24 201:9	substantial 22:5 25:5
stereotypes 50:10	231:15 240:2	208:13
stick 26:8 stolen 99:6	struck 57:3 228:21 structural 51:14	substantially 184:14 substituted 53:3 187:18
stomach 215:11,15	structure 24:12 57:5 82:21	succeed 19:6 103:15 122:4
<b>Stone</b> 240:20	114:24 116:9	232:24
stop 47:19 54:9 68:16	structured 85:13	succeeded 103:19
186:3	struggle 155:21 224:14	success 22:7 26:6 68:9
stopping 59:21 143:8	struggled 103:3	70:18 78:24 79:9 104:13
storp 99:6	struggling 202:21 236:18	111:24 113:9 143:8
stories 144:5,8 178:18	stuck 122:7	177:18 178:18 179:13
244:8	student 219:20	successes 128:2 143:18
story 98:24 117:4 125:9	studied 210:19	174:19 229:4
214:16 230:20 235:9	studies 15:20 62:12 167:13	successful 27:19 28:15
237:3	210:15	64:24 65:2 69:11 79:4
straddles 210:17	study 210:24 212:13	143:17 144:18 145:2

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc.

		Page 297
146:24 147:2,4 150:16	103:19 105:11 109:4	196:20
160:12 162:9 172:8	117:17 122:12,13 135:8,9	susceptible 113:14
174:22 176:17 219:12	135:9 142:24 145:20,20	suspected 194:20
232:23 237:2	149:9 156:21 159:2,7	sustain 219:17
successfully 71:21 77:19	161:18,19 162:4,5 163:5	sweet 135:5,12
225:20	163:15,17,23 164:4,20,24	swiftly 17:21
succumbing 178:24	173:22 175:8,12 178:21	swiftness 228:6
suffer 50:2,6 212:3	179:15,16 181:2,21	sworn 248:7
suffering 155:6	196:21 197:4,12 198:15	symbolize 111:12
suggest 85:15 111:11	199:4,13,20,22 200:5,9	synergy 223:14
119:14 186:21	201:21 203:10 222:2	Syracuse 69:13 76:24
suggested 22:24 123:11	231:16 235:5 240:24	150:15,22 158:11 173:9
suggestion 120:8	supported 26:12 73:2	173:12 174:2 177:14
suggestions 120:15 122:11	85:12 108:17 130:16	214:18
<b>suicide</b> 209:14	145:22 153:15	system 6:19 7:22 9:12
suitable 225:3	supporter 232:14	11:23 12:2,6,12,15,17,22
suited 140:20	supporting 231:24	13:13 14:21 15:18 20:24
<b>sum</b> 100:20	supportive 233:10	22:10,18 35:17,19 49:8
summarize 77:10 81:3	supports 18:22 19:3 55:16	49:14 50:18,21 51:7 52:8
188:3	supposed 92:20	52:23 53:12 60:23 64:9
<b>summary</b> 111:10	Supposedly 209:9	72:17 74:15,17 77:16
summer 189:9	suppression 156:19	78:10,16,17 82:24 83:15
sunglasses 243:8	supreme 41:23,23 208:7	90:16 94:3,4,20 97:22
Superintendent 189:21	210:5 211:18	103:19 120:4 121:12
superintendents 168:23	sure 37:10 93:12,16 94:12	122:7,21 124:13,21
superior 86:18	100:18 128:15,18 130:21	126:12 130:22 132:12
supervise 8:15	132:4,11,18 135:24	133:5 140:5 143:17
supervised 12:12 24:3	137:21,21,21,21 139:14	159:16 161:2 162:20
107:13	157:16 171:6 230:17	166:20 175:6 176:8
supervising 9:19	235:8 236:14 237:10,22	180:15 186:15 205:21,24
supervision 6:9,21 9:3,21	239:23 244:3	206:17 207:13,16 209:11
11:11 12:6,19 14:20	Surely 228:12	219:14 222:7 234:22
19:15 24:3,17 32:4 36:23	surgeries 215:22	235:19 243:13,16 245:5
37:2 38:14,16 42:17	surprised 100:19 139:23	245:20
43:23 44:5 65:10 67:21	surprising 108:6	systematically 183:11
107:7,24 172:9 174:15	surprisingly 193:10	systems 11:10 54:5 56:14
180:2 226:3,15 228:12,14	surveillance 193:21,22	71:19 128:20 129:15
228:15 232:20,20	survey 11:5,8 27:23	134:8 178:5
suppliers 241:14	survival 90:16 154:11	systemwide 198:14
supply 69:5 170:17	survive 154:11 200:18	
supplying 20:3	213:19 218:11	
support 15:10 22:22 24:10	surviving 89:13	table 37:14 138:18 139:15
27:20 29:19 39:10 46:18	Survivors 116:2	tailored 229:17
56:13 71:6 85:2 90:11	Susan 3:2 172:19 196:14	take 9:14 23:2 68:12 75:3

800.323.7887	1/15/2007, Albany, NT, Tuble Hearin	Page 298
78:14,15 79:13 91:22	<b>tax</b> 108:11 111:16	202:5
92:3 97:2 125:15,20	taxes 151:24	terrible 146:2 185:15
144:13 152:5 155:17,18	taxpayer 158:22	terrific 228:2
157:13 161:14 169:8	taxpayers 153:15	terrifying 89:21
182:5 203:16 204:3 207:8	teach 85:16 92:14 96:3	territorial 154:18
212:15 220:13 221:3	teaching 92:8 156:12,12,16	test 101:7 201:5,7
236:11 238:18 245:18	team 169:20 171:7	tested 140:4 144:19
taken 21:12 123:9 125:22	<b>teams</b> 189:8	testified 50:17 244:6
150:7 193:16 197:18	<b>tech</b> 153:15	testify 30:11 102:3,5
199:9 200:4 206:2 221:5	technical 29:19 145:16	113:17 248:7
244:4 247:11 248:3	178:20 217:19,21 228:3	testifying 6:13 48:11
takes 96:9 170:13 177:23	228:10	142:20 157:22
take-home 200:3	technicians 84:7	testimony 18:12 20:20 21:4
talk 17:6,7 23:5 26:20 29:6	teenage 147:21	31:15 34:10 35:13 40:16
36:22 37:2,4 40:24	teenager 208:2	45:9 47:23 59:7 63:13
101:17 133:16 134:19	teenagers 147:19 207:24	66:14 82:19 89:6 95:8
142:14 154:4 159:19,20	teens 210:17	97:11 108:9 120:9 125:15
166:10,12,15 174:18	telephone 214:23 243:12	135:23 149:16 157:4,5
180:18 190:10 204:14,17	televisions 231:3	168:13 169:13 185:5
204:18 206:13 214:20	tell 18:16 90:4 91:23 99:11	188:3 193:19 197:21
220:6 247:12	151:6 152:24 153:19	198:21 212:6 242:12
talked 132:2,9 133:20	166:3 168:18 171:7	248:6
178:17 245:8	176:11 189:20 218:19	testing 93:19 140:23 141:5
talking 37:14 38:4 76:2,2	235:16	141:6
78:9 93:11 98:20 112:4	telling 123:5	<b>Texas</b> 167:21
166:23 167:2 170:6 179:4	<b>tells</b> 204:12	thank 4:7 6:12 19:11,12,14
194:15 211:2 239:5	<b>tell-tale</b> 140:10	19:20,21 20:14 21:9,10
talks 37:7	temporary 159:3 197:24	33:6,7,10,13,19,21,23
<b>Tamar</b> 212:20 220:22	<b>ten</b> 5:22 29:2,9 31:2 34:12	40:15,18,20 43:6,7,13
<b>Tana</b> 2:13 101:20 102:4	61:18 68:13 106:6 109:15	44:2,10,12,14 45:4,10
tap 71:14 209:19	125:19 127:20 139:7	47:22 48:5,7,9,18,20,22
target 177:19	144:3 168:12,15 189:9,17	58:8,10,11,21 59:5 66:10
targeted 75:17 174:3	193:4 194:19 195:6	67:6,7,14 77:11,14,20
188:10 194:6	220:21 241:20 243:14	81:9,11,13,14,24 82:7,8,9
targeting 193:12 226:10	245:8 246:2,3	82:11,18 87:8,16,17,19
<b>TASC</b> 10:9	tenants 72:4 73:11 76:19	88:11,12,17 91:8,9,13,15
task 9:13 115:22 119:22,24	ten-minute 221:3	91:17 101:11,23,23
142:20 149:5,5,21 157:23	ten-year 15:19	112:13 113:16,18 115:7,8
166:18,22 191:2 221:22	term 21:14 86:9	115:9,14 120:6,7,8,17,18
222:2 223:5,11,20 224:3	terminated 13:23	120:21 125:9,11,21
224:12,13 225:4 228:21	terminology 241:5	126:14 135:11,18 137:13
228:22	terms 24:6 27:11 114:11	137:16 141:18,19,21
<b>Tavares</b> 231:9 232:9,21	118:13 162:17 168:10	142:11 147:5 148:9 149:9
236:17	169:16 182:18 186:17	149:18 156:22,23 157:6

		Page 299
157:14,17,19 158:23	219:6 238:17 244:20,23	222:19 239:12 243:7,9
165:5,6,17,18 170:23	247:10	244:10,19
171:10,13 172:10,15,16	thinking 99:24 212:12	three-dozen 102:14
173:6 182:8,9 183:13,15	<b>Third</b> 56:5	three-hour 30:2 193:22
183:21 187:13,15,24	<b>thirteen</b> 14:10 16:3 61:13	three-million-dollar 78:13
196:9,12,17,19 203:18,19	242:19,21	threw 97:4
204:5 212:17,18 213:7	thirty 9:4,17 21:5 49:10	throw 111:13
220:12,17 221:14 223:22	50:15 74:17 76:4 110:12	<b>thrown</b> 154:10 155:18
229:18,20,22,23 230:5,23	121:15 142:17 150:24	205:5
237:6,7,12,19 244:24	191:21 195:5,7	<b>Thruway</b> 158:7,11
246:14,15,15,24 247:2,3	thirty-eight 124:12	thwart 31:6
247:7,14	thirty-five 61:11 62:24	ticked 193:8
<b>Thanks</b> 221:13	165:3 174:9,12 202:24	<b>tickle</b> 70:23
theater 145:11,14	thirty-four 38:24 162:12	tight 5:21
<b>theme</b> 95:7	thirty-nine 61:9,23	till 108:22
Theodore 203:21	thirty-seven 28:23 210:24	<b>time</b> 1:11 5:21 6:3,24 17:19
<b>thing</b> 17:17 21:13,15 39:23	thirty-six 27:24 61:20	19:7 21:16 22:4 23:11
69:15 77:5 78:4 79:16	62:23	24:24 26:2,3 32:8,22 33:3
144:8,17 145:4,15 183:5	thirty-three 63:23 222:4	35:21 37:10,20 53:10
185:15 214:13 234:20	242:14	64:15 66:2,16 68:5,7
236:21 238:13 246:12	<b>thirty-two</b> 64:4 105:16	69:20 73:2,12 75:13,18
<b>things</b> 34:23 36:17 37:6	thought 53:14 196:3	77:4,13 90:13 96:9,19
39:17 40:5,13 55:19	234:18,19 235:10	100:17,23 101:11 104:2,9
70:17 73:3 79:24 91:21	thoughtful 86:7 115:10	107:7 113:4,7 117:3
92:10 93:21 99:22 122:4	220:18	121:12 129:6 131:8
144:7,22 145:11 169:5	thoughts 73:17	136:15 137:14 141:13
172:7 181:19 183:12	thousand 8:16,22 9:4,17,18	145:19 147:15 151:12,15
188:12 192:20 216:14	9:19 10:13 14:10 28:3,8	152:7,7 154:2,21 160:4
219:12 231:14 233:3	29:14 38:13,15,22,24	160:13 161:6 166:5
239:24 245:2	61:9,10,12,13,24 62:23	167:14 168:24 169:23
think 21:7,15,22,23 29:5	63:3 69:2 83:7,10 113:15	174:16 184:22 186:5,12
36:13 37:18,22 39:12,14	127:20 129:9 139:7	189:22 195:20 196:2,10
41:16 42:2,12,12 43:14	147:19,23 158:13 179:18	198:6,16 199:20 207:7
93:6 94:9 95:21,23 96:11	244:3	212:13 215:6 217:8
97:23 99:17 101:3 114:16	thousands 73:21 89:23	220:17 222:13 223:11
115:23 127:3,7,14 128:4	103:11 159:23 160:2	224:20 231:21,23 234:6
128:7,13,21 129:15,24	threat 112:8	234:14 236:11 239:18
130:4 131:12 132:8	<b>threaten</b> 164:2	240:12 241:15 242:11
134:13 135:6 138:20	<b>three</b> 12:11 29:13 38:18	243:2,12 244:8,21 247:12
139:13 142:5 145:24	69:14 88:21 95:18 97:14 110:22 111:22 138:18	248:3
162:22 166:22 170:9 185:7 192:2 195:19	110:22 111:23 138:18	timekeeper 6:3
	161:23 167:11 177:13	<b>timely</b> 18:14 <b>times</b> 43:9 128:8 167:9
199:12 200:14 208:4,5 210:20 212:4,14 218:7	186:18 188:21 189:8,15 194:2 205:22 217:16,17	186:18 215:10 217:17
210.20 212.4,14 210.7	1/7.2 203.22 217.10,17	100.10 213.10 217.17

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc.

11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

r		Page 300
239:24	track 15:21 129:8 184:23	83:20 85:19 86:10 97:19
tinkered 243:13	<b>trade</b> 100:6	102:17 105:16 126:6,13
tinkering 243:19	traditional 181:4	127:6,18,21 128:11,12
tipping 185:24	traditionally 181:23	130:9,10,17,23,24 131:3
<b>tired</b> 166:4	traffic 29:14	131:5,10,19,20,21 133:6
tobacco 208:19 209:9	trafficking 194:12	133:8,10,16,23,24 134:2
today 6:2,14 10:18 11:3	tragedies 63:8	136:6,16,21 138:14,16,19
15:8 17:9,17 29:11 33:23	tragedy 159:22 160:2	139:16 140:12,19 144:5
33:24 36:12 39:9 40:7	tragic 59:21 149:17	162:7 163:8,17 176:23
45:9 48:12 57:19 58:3	train 13:19 41:16,20 200:7	190:21,21 191:4,13,24
59:7 67:18 82:19,23	trained 140:17 142:23	192:22 195:14 204:16
84:12 91:13 95:7 102:3	143:6 144:6	205:10 219:15 222:5
102:15 105:17,21 112:18	trainer 92:8 93:16	225:11,17
113:17 126:15 142:12	training 17:12,15 41:18	treatments 28:15 210:13
178:16 179:4 182:17	65:16 80:18 143:9 146:23	tremendous 21:15 92:23
183:12 191:16 196:11,23	177:2,8 179:22 219:13	93:9 94:23 121:2 127:15
198:22 214:20 217:14	225:13 228:24 232:2	134:14 143:18 147:3
220:6,13 222:7,18 233:4	transactions 195:23	tremendously 20:23 36:14
238:10 239:9 244:2,4	transcript 244:12	37:20
246:22	transcription 248:9	trend 22:13
<b>today's</b> 32:24	transcripts 165:10,13,14	trends 189:4
told 25:21 105:20 122:19	transferred 201:12 211:8	trial 117:8 149:23 194:24
123:3 124:15 217:7	transition 74:11 173:24	195:2 215:4
<b>Tom</b> 2:17 157:8 165:24	222:23 228:18	trickles 70:24
166:16 189:21	transitional 75:13 179:2	<b>trip</b> 30:3
tomorrow 169:19	180:20 225:10	troops 45:2
tonight 78:12,16	translated 162:18	trouble 55:6 68:21 151:9
Tony 5:3	transnational 52:21	172:13
tool 13:4,6,9,20,23 42:16	transport 84:3	troubled 9:23 96:18
62:19 96:13 225:21	transportation 70:20	<b>true</b> 26:21,22 51:18 93:15
226:16	76:20 89:16	110:23 117:4 140:13
tools 14:13 40:24 52:7	traumatic 233:21	144:11 151:10 180:14
190:19 195:11	travel 84:4	182:4 235:9 241:5 248:10
top 86:16 143:22,23	travesty 150:11	truly 58:6 90:22 136:20
topic 100:15	treat 127:24 184:12 185:20	140:15 206:23 211:16
torment 97:3	treated 50:9 67:3 97:17	229:6
total 38:11,19 143:14	99:18,23 144:3 169:16	<b>truth</b> 160:8 161:16 248:7,7
144:24 146:4	<b>Treating</b> 67:4	248:8
totaling 217:17	treatment 10:9,11 25:22	try 34:11 73:9 75:12,16
totally 144:16 147:7,9	26:4,13,17,19,20 27:18	79:13,20,22 92:12 100:19
239:6	27:20 28:9 29:18 30:9	120:15 135:16 165:12
touch 21:6 25:3 171:15	46:19,20 49:6 55:12	166:11 188:3 243:11
tough 112:3,3	56:23 57:16 62:20 63:4,5	trying 35:2 77:6 79:12
town 29:23	65:8,16 66:3 71:2,4 78:20	80:24 92:18 93:16 100:21

	1/15/2007, Albany, NT, Tuble Hearin	Page 301
110.15 120.12 122.2 2	twonty two year old 10.2	
110:15 120:13 122:2,3 127:23 134:11 155:17	<b>twenty-two-year-old</b> 49:3 <b>twice</b> 8:16 167:11 215:10	underfunded 35:11 36:4
172:7 238:8 241:21	215:11	underground 200:17 undermanned 35:11 36:4
tube 215:14		undermines 225:16
	<b>two</b> 7:2 10:5 12:11 15:9 18:10 34:4 41:18 47:15	
<b>Tuesday</b> 112:7		<b>understand</b> 34:6 36:16
<b>Tuffey</b> 2:10 44:16,17,24	47:16 51:22 57:4,12 63:2	43:10,11 44:4 45:15
45:4	63:14 67:15 69:2 85:5	58:15 84:15 86:21 92:16
tumor 205:2	88:21 89:5 90:9 111:24	94:22 145:2 146:17,19
<b>Tupper</b> 29:23 30:8	112:11,16 113:22 122:24	150:12 171:22 180:6
<b>turn</b> 143:20 152:8 154:7	124:16,18 134:19 145:11	209:9 216:23 218:8
155:10,10,11 169:2	161:23 169:5,21 173:18	220:20 233:22,24 234:21
turnaround 189:16	188:21 191:8 193:6,18	understandable 162:19
turned 93:24	194:8,16 195:3,23 215:12	understandably 160:6
turnout 224:2	216:14 223:11 224:23	understanding 26:18
twelve 16:3 29:14 125:19	238:15,18 244:16,19	50:18 51:5 55:14 68:10
167:6 169:17 193:23	247:9	79:14 106:23 107:18
twelve-step 102:9 162:24	<b>two-thirds</b> 177:11 195:3	114:3,9,10 146:4 160:11
twenty 16:8 29:3 38:3	<b>type</b> 97:16 121:10,15	207:18
74:14 95:24 109:8 110:11	123:19 124:14 205:19	understood 163:12
136:11 158:10 179:18	220:10	undertaking 7:13 158:7
191:18	<b>types</b> 16:19 106:24 146:12	<b>undo</b> 45:23
twenty-eight 16:7 29:13	181:2,18,19,20	undocumented 238:14
47:15	typewritten 248:8	uneducated 161:13
twenty-five 8:16 39:7 70:5	typically 100:21,22	unemployment 50:3 177:6
88:20 89:10,20 112:21	<b>T.B</b> 144:3	unfamiliar 207:14,15
142:17,22 145:6 191:18	<b>T.V</b> 143:20 155:23	unfettered 190:17
195:4 202:16		unfortunately 121:19
twenty-five-thousand-d	$\frac{\mathbf{U}}{\mathbf{U}}$	122:6,14,21 123:14
245:14	<b>Uh-huh</b> 88:4 136:7 138:5,8	124:20
twenty-four 38:12 68:8,19	140:2 141:14 148:6	uniformed 83:7
68:21 131:4 143:13	182:13	uniformity 65:24
twenty-four-month 130:23	<b>Ulster</b> 102:24 110:5,22	unintended 107:9 110:19
Twenty-ninth 58:23	111:6	111:9 195:12
<b>twenty-one</b> 16:9 174:12	ultimately 178:14 189:11	<b>union</b> 79:21
208:24	190:20	unions 79:23
twenty-seven 193:20	<b>un</b> 77:2	<b>unique</b> 216:19 229:11
twenty-six 113:15 129:9	<b>unable</b> 50:2 57:23 70:21	uniquely 18:19
188:20,22 217:17	109:18	<b>unit</b> 76:2,5
twenty-three 83:7 103:10	unbelievably 70:3	United 35:10
105:7 112:13,14 124:13	uncle 214:24	<b>unjust</b> 186:23
244:11,13	unconstitutional 89:3	<b>unknown</b> 151:20
twenty-three-year 102:8	underbelly 46:15	unlawful 154:12
twenty-two 28:3,7 91:24	undercover 189:7	unmentioned 64:15
92:2,18 167:4	underemployment 50:3	unmerited 110:6

Page 302

		Page 30.
unnecessary 59:11	<b>utilize</b> 31:7 104:23 138:20	veteran 102:8
unorganized 150:19	utilized 14:8 119:15	veterans 70:5,6,16
<b>unpopular</b> 110:7 150:10	utilizes 14:3	<b>veto</b> 138:3
unprosecutable 195:24	utilizing 178:4	vetted 222:8 239:23
unquestionable 159:24	<b>utmost</b> 164:7	<b>vice</b> 221:23
unquote 90:24	utopian 52:20	victim 24:14 108:10 115:17
unrealizable 52:20	utterly 185:13	115:19 116:24 117:6,13
unreasonable 101:3	<b>U.S</b> 208:7	victims 27:8 46:3,16 85:7
unrelated 104:3		94:19 108:5 116:2,5
unsupervised 109:11	V	117:5,18,22 118:10,14,23
<b>untrue</b> 108:14	vacancy 76:5	119:20 120:2,9,14 241:16
<b>unusual</b> 208:11	<b>vacant</b> 152:12	victim's 116:18 117:8
unwillingness 203:9	Vale 188:11,11	118:19 119:20
unworkable 195:24	Valerie 220:23	view 140:11 191:8,9
upbringing 153:7	validated 13:5 14:3,16	222:14
upcoming 86:23 224:17	225:21	views 138:2 191:8 240:17
updating 32:11	validation 15:13	<b>Village</b> 146:10
upfront 140:5	validity 208:8,8	violate 47:18 101:6 111:23
upstairs 168:13	valley 153:15 233:8	132:6
<b>Upstate</b> 26:14 28:16 30:20	valuable 43:10 97:24	violated 24:18 47:11
32:2 146:4,17 150:2,17	145:17	violation 18:15 24:5 47:4,9
164:20 182:18 215:22	value 167:16 172:3	197:8 217:21 228:3
upward 189:4	values 180:7	violations 18:7 29:14,15
<b>urge</b> 7:19 32:20 198:24	Vance 2:6 5:10,10 40:21	54:22 164:2 178:20
urged 27:2	95:16 137:23 138:6,9	217:19 227:22 228:10
urgent 50:24 59:7 66:14	221:8,11,13,16 229:20,23	violative 17:21
<b>urges</b> 54:2 66:20 203:12	230:3,6,10,13,17 237:7	violator 47:3
<b>urging</b> 240:2 241:22	237:14,16 246:15 247:3	violators 84:5 100:17
<b>use</b> 13:2,4,20 14:12,15	variation 229:16	219:9 227:19
26:12,19 27:21 41:23	varies 66:3	violence 27:4,5,8,11 38:5
55:20 62:13 86:9 98:11	variety 16:18 92:8 97:7	46:9 96:5 155:11,12
104:6 109:15 163:6,15,23	99:22 197:2	175:19 177:6 188:23
164:4 180:11 196:4 201:6	various 109:19,20 114:4,10	190:3,19 193:11 194:12
227:13,18 240:8 241:4	231:2 232:10	195:12
useful 96:13	varying 10:14 12:7,12	violent 8:21 16:6 27:6
usefulness 158:20	vehicle 29:14 208:21	44:22,23 85:22 102:15
useless 96:22 158:21	vendor 13:18	108:7 112:2,19,21 113:2
user 140:15 192:18	verdict 97:13	113:13 192:9 194:9
users 191:23 244:22	Vermont 21:22	239:20
<b>uses</b> 201:4,8	version 6:18 21:4	violently 210:22
<b>usual</b> 241:15	versus 182:18 195:7	virtually 35:22
usually 96:23	<b>VESID</b> 80:17,21	<b>virus</b> 144:20
<b>Utica</b> 69:14	vest 218:23	vision 58:5
utilization 65:13 226:4	<b>vested</b> 80:16	<b>visit</b> 143:5 235:11

	, <u>,</u> , ,	Page 303
visited 176:6	154:15 158:15 165:9	224:6 236:3
visiting 69:14 176:11	167:24 171:4,5,12,22	weakening 195:13,14
visits 12:13	182:5 185:2,6 197:10	weakness 229:7
vital 24:13 30:6 39:12 78:4	204:2,3,8 213:4 214:20	weapon 88:21 196:5
91:2 170:20 195:11	217:13,14 228:17 230:16	wearing 218:23
<b>vocal</b> 60:9	230:22 232:6,24 233:14	weave 246:10
vocational 80:18,20 177:2	238:11 239:24 247:6	<b>Web</b> 4:12 15:23 165:11
225:13	wanted 29:10 30:11 43:19	week 30:3 31:15 69:12,13
<b>voice</b> 85:8 116:15,19	81:22,23,24 126:20,24	143:12,13 241:13
160:18 220:8,9	171:20 175:22 234:7	weekend 145:19 169:14,16
voluntary 162:23	237:3,3	weeks 84:24 169:21
volunteer 56:9 102:16	wanting 33:4	week's 73:19
103:8 170:2	wants 36:16 39:11 90:22	weigh 209:10,12
volunteered 102:10 106:9	114:15 204:7 233:2,4	welcome 4:7 20:10,13
volunteers 102:14 104:7	236:22	33:20 45:3 48:18 58:20
170:21,22	war 242:21 243:2	82:14 88:16 101:22
<b>vote</b> 50:2 108:9 164:18	ward 154:20	115:13 121:7 149:2
208:19 220:4	warehouse 79:23	187:23 196:16 204:4
voters 150:9	warehousing 228:14	213:6,7 230:14 237:13,17
	wares 194:10	welfare 142:23
	<b>warm</b> 130:11	well-intended 30:23
wading 176:12	warn 166:13	well-intentioned 28:19
wage 176:19 178:22	warrant 84:2 238:20	well-positioned 18:19
wages 200:2 wait 73:24 224:16	warrants 18:12 122:20,24	well-served 71:18
waiting 96:23,23 99:7	123:9	Wendy 2:6 5:16
176:12 197:16	Warren 30:10 35:14	went 76:15 88:19 114:9
waiving 10:23 77:4	wars 154:18	145:13 175:2,3,4 189:13
walk 46:14 232:6 241:6,7	wasn't 87:24 101:13	189:14 194:23 215:19
walked 154:3 156:5	106:19 139:24 216:3	242:15
walking 78:5 239:15	239:19	Westchester 33:15 37:17
walls 79:19 85:19 105:10	wastes 66:16	43:3,21 Western 170:5
232:11	watch 240:10 watched 69:21	we'll 41:21 78:18 101:17
want 4:6 6:2 7:2,15,17 9:13	watches 155:20	141:16 157:13 221:2
17:17 18:16 19:13,22	watches 155.20 way 33:12 43:5 52:21 54:8	we're 17:7 21:23 35:16
20:5 21:6,10 29:17 31:11	54:13 59:20 75:5 87:6	40:9 41:13,16 74:7,8 75:9
31:11,18 33:23 34:11,20	95:8 109:3 122:14 140:11	78:9,22 112:4 125:13,13
35:12 36:11,12 39:10	144:10 154:16 155:8	125:18 127:16 128:18
40:13,15 44:2 66:10,23	170:9,10 179:3 184:12	129:23 131:24 132:3,19
76:6 78:11 81:8,11 82:18	199:7 201:17 208:4	134:13 135:6 149:18
91:22 92:16 98:19 116:18	218:16 229:14 235:22,23	166:8 167:13 168:5,7,7,8
120:4,23 127:4 128:15	236:5,7 240:4 245:6	169:24 170:18,21 172:7
130:15 131:14 132:18	ways 54:11 57:24 86:24	181:12 182:19 183:3
133:9 134:15 135:20	104:18 116:17 170:10	193:11 196:21 210:24

		Page 304	
225:2	wore 215:14	203:17 205:5	
we've 41:17 79:23 118:11	work 4:15 7:18 10:18	worry 206:19	
127:8 132:2 137:24	11:22 24:13 33:8,11,20	worst 83:12,12 151:21	
168:24 186:3 236:9	39:10 40:8,9 44:24 45:23	240:22	
whatsoever 228:16	46:8 47:24 54:8 55:22	worst-case 119:12	
<b>Whig</b> 238:24	56:13,20 60:22 70:11	worth 111:21 145:7 146:16	
white 240:15 241:7,8,8	75:10 77:20,24 79:4,22	179:7	
243:10	80:8 82:2 104:8 111:11	wouldn't 166:5 194:9	
whites 62:15,17	111:16 113:4 115:3	239:17 245:15	
wide 166:8 197:2	121:16 128:17 129:21	wound 223:23	
widely 66:3	131:7,11 132:14,17 134:8	wounded 72:16,21,23	
wield 190:15	134:14 135:7 141:16	wrap 19:10	
Willard 133:12,14 191:19	145:14 149:19 153:12	wreak 47:12	
192:5,6,10,14	156:21 158:24 160:11	wrestles 229:14	
William 238:3,18	161:7,18 162:9 165:19	write 122:22	
Williams 3:3 204:2 212:20	174:22 175:5,6 196:22	writers 182:2	
212:24 213:2,6,7 214:17	203:17 218:14 219:2,5,7	writing 40:16	
220:16	222:4 225:9,17 226:12	writings 97:16	
willing 125:8 184:18	227:9 229:19 236:9 244:7	written 13:9,11 18:11 34:9	
218:17	workable 195:21	95:8 112:16 116:3 169:13	
willingness 31:8	worked 13:18 49:11 82:5	212:6,7	
wing 233:19	89:14 223:7 224:24	wrong 66:19 124:5 128:14	
wisdom 21:12	228:24	141:10 144:15,16 192:17	
wise 87:5	worker 173:19	206:18,20 207:24 233:12	
wish 104:22 119:24	workers 151:24 238:15	233:23	
wishes 64:13 213:23	workforce 17:9,13	wrongdoing 206:24 207:3	
witness 102:6	working 15:15 16:14 22:10	wrongful 93:21 199:16	
witnesses 187:19	41:21 43:4 49:9 56:16	wrote 10:16 98:24 123:8	
witness(es) 248:6	65:11 74:15,16 79:10	147:12 210:6	
wolves 111:13	113:10 115:4 124:21	<b>W-two</b> 200:18	
woman 63:12 174:4 199:2	126:12 127:16 130:12,14	X	
244:6 245:11,15	130:15 150:23 151:23	xenophobia 238:20	
women 63:9,15,18,21 64:2	164:14 167:7 168:8		
64:4,6,9 68:12 102:16	171:14 172:11 174:11,16	Y	
142:23,24 143:5 144:6	175:22 179:11 187:9	<b>YASI</b> 13:6	
145:14 148:24 181:6	228:20 235:23	yeah 41:10 81:4 135:15	
246:2 wonder 156:15 162:22	workload 24:21	137:8,11,15 140:9,24	
wonder 156:15 162:22	works 25:22 226:24	148:9 157:12 221:17	
wonderful 68:9 126:11	worksheet 42:11	<b>year</b> 6:23 9:5 12:24 44:21	
144:22 145:2,10 148:8 168:18	workshop 153:2 workshops 176:2	61:19 62:24 63:4 68:13	
wonders 53:14	work-release 174:14	75:13,13 78:14 86:23	
wonders 55.14 word 180:14 227:7	work-release 174.14 world 32:24 36:5 75:9	96:21,24 113:15 121:14	
words 125:3	76:10 122:5,17 178:20	129:10 167:9,11 181:15	
TT <b>UI UI</b> O 1 <i>40.0</i>	, 0.10 122.0,17 170.20		

Associated Reporters Int'l., Inc.

11/15/2007, Albany, NY, Public Hearing

Page	304	5
1 ugo	50.	

		Page 305
188:7 189:6 190:5,6	60:6 61:14,15,23 62:6,8	<b>Zogby</b> 210:11
193:20 195:24 205:18,20	62:14,17,20 63:16,19,21	<b>zoning</b> 68:16
206:14,18,20 208:24	64:2,8,22 65:23 69:16	
209:4,6,24 210:12 223:20	70:7 80:16 82:20,24 83:3	1
231:20 242:17	83:10,17 84:5 86:8 88:15	1 248:5,9
years 16:9 25:4 34:4 35:18	89:22 90:21 102:20 106:5	<b>1st</b> 47:14 76:13
36:15 37:17,18,23 39:6	116:7 117:19 121:10	<b>100</b> 240:11 241:3
49:10,19,21 50:15 51:10	122:2 124:23 126:23	<b>11-15-2007</b> 2:1 3:1 4:1 5:1
58:11 67:19 69:21 74:14	135:4 147:18 148:24	6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1
74:17 77:5,7 81:16 82:2,5	149:12 150:2,9,17 157:22	12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1
88:20,22,22 89:3,9,10,20	158:9 162:21 164:8	17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1
90:3 91:24 92:18 97:14	168:18 170:5,5,6 172:18	22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1
102:10 103:10 105:7,8,14	180:22 183:18 186:6,17	27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1
105:17 108:12,12 110:12	186:20 197:23 199:8,9,19	32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 36:1
112:11,13,14,21 118:15	200:14 205:21 208:15,20	37:1 38:1 39:1 40:1 41:1
119:9 121:20 122:18	209:19 210:16 214:18	42:1 43:1 44:1 45:1 46:1
124:16,18 136:11 140:17	221:20 237:23 242:3	47:1 48:1 49:1 50:1 51:1
142:17,18,22 144:4 145:6	244:7 245:8 246:18	52:1 53:1 54:1 55:1 56:1
145:24 147:16 150:24	<b>Yorkers</b> 21:2 22:20 45:22	57:1 58:1 59:1 60:1 61:1
155:20 165:3 167:4,7	139:7,8	62:1 63:1 64:1 65:1 66:1
168:15 169:17 173:18,20	<b>York's</b> 25:6 57:4 212:16	67:1 68:1 69:1 70:1 71:1
177:13 187:21 188:15,20	York/New 210:17	72:1 73:1 74:1 75:1 76:1
188:22 189:16,17 190:5	<b>young</b> 2:11 49:22 67:9,10	77:1 78:1 79:1 80:1 81:1
193:4,7 194:17,19 195:6	67:14 77:14 81:4,7,10,14	82:1 83:1 84:1 85:1 86:1
195:7,7 204:11 208:23	81:15,19,20,21 82:8,10	87:1 88:1 89:1 90:1 91:1
209:4 214:22 215:17	82:11 96:10,21 144:2,18	92:1 93:1 94:1 95:1 96:1
217:16 222:4 231:10	147:18 148:4 150:21	97:1 98:1 99:1 100:1
232:21 234:2 238:7 239:7	151:7 154:9 155:9,15	101:1 102:1 103:1 104:1
239:12 242:14,19,21	167:3 174:11,21 175:2,23	105:1 106:1 107:1 108:1
243:7,9,14 244:11,14,19	178:13 181:5,10 188:8	109:1 110:1 111:1 112:1
244:19	209:12 215:3 232:4 241:8	113:1 114:1 115:1 116:1
<b>yelling</b> 106:11	younger 16:6 155:18	117:1 118:1 119:1 120:1
<b>yells</b> 213:16	youth 73:13 112:20 153:16	121:1 122:1 123:1 124:1
yesterday 141:7	155:20 174:17 175:18	125:1 126:1 127:1 128:1
<b>York</b> 1:2,3,13 5:8,11 6:8	207:12 208:14 210:14	129:1 130:1 131:1 132:1
7:11,15,19,21 8:5,12 9:12	211:5,20	133:1 134:1 135:1 136:1
11:13,24 12:22 13:2,7,10	youthful 95:13,22 96:12	137:1 138:1 139:1 140:1
13:12,22 14:5,6,7,24	youths 9:23	141:1 142:1 143:1 144:1
15:10,22 16:11 17:10,11	<b>Yusef</b> 3:3 204:2 212:20	145:1 146:1 147:1 148:1
18:17,24 20:11,19,24	214:17	149:1 150:1 151:1 152:1
21:18,20,24 22:3 23:2,24	<b>Y.O</b> 98:15	153:1 154:1 155:1 156:1
26:14 27:24 32:5 33:10	Z	157:1 158:1 159:1 160:1
34:2 35:9,19 44:18 46:2		161:1 162:1 163:1 164:1
51:3,15 53:7 59:4,10,12	<b>zero</b> 174:3	165:1 166:1 167:1 168:1
L		

Page 306

		Pa
169:1 170:1 171:1 172:1	<b>2001</b> 108:21	
173:1 174:1 175:1 176:1	2002 58:23	
177:1 178:1 179:1 180:1	<b>2003</b> 174:10	
181:1 182:1 183:1 184:1	2004 59:12,19 60:2,5 61:3	
185:1 186:1 187:1 188:1	61:11 244:19	
189:1 190:1 191:1 192:1	2005 38:17,20 59:19 60:2	
193:1 194:1 195:1 196:1	61:3,9,10 63:10 108:23	
197:1 198:1 199:1 200:1	175:13 208:9 210:5	
201:1 202:1 203:1 204:1	<b>2006</b> 10:12 11:6 38:17 39:5	
205:1 206:1 207:1 208:1	47:14 58:23 61:8,9,20	
209:1 210:1 211:1 212:1	63:21	
213:1 214:1 215:1 216:1	<b>2007</b> 1:10 10:16 11:7 13:17	
217:1 218:1 219:1 220:1	63:14,18,22 70:4	
221:1 222:1 223:1 224:1	2008 13:22 124:16	
225:1 226:1 227:1 228:1	<b>22nd</b> 6:23	
229:1 230:1 231:1 232:1	<b>247</b> 248:9	
233:1 234:1 235:1 236:1	<b>28th</b> 10:15	
237:1 238:1 239:1 240:1		
241:1 242:1 243:1 244:1	3	
245:1 246:1 247:1 248:1	<b>3rd</b> 76:14	
<b>11:46</b> 125:22	<b>3:12</b> 1:11 247:16	
<b>12:24</b> 125:24	<b>30s</b> 239:11	
<b>15</b> 1:10 121:20	<b>30-minute</b> 42:4	
<b>1827</b> 53:9	5	
<b>1837</b> 238:19 239:2		
<b>1950s</b> 68:6,15	<b>58</b> 8:14	
<b>1973</b> 63:18	7	
<b>1976</b> 142:18	750 197:9	
<b>1980</b> 61:22	<b>76</b> 69:20	
<b>1980s</b> 163:4		
<b>1981</b> 88:19 89:11	8	
<b>1982</b> 115:22	8 74:3	
<b>1990</b> 39:4 188:6 189:4	<b>87</b> 146:22	
<b>1990s</b> 209:21	9	
<b>1993</b> 189:4,6,11 192:2	<b>9:44</b> 1:11 4:2	
197:23		
<b>1994</b> 189:17 190:6	<b>93</b> 122:20,21 <b>94</b> 122:20,22	
<b>1995</b> 23:7	94 122.20,22	
<b>1999</b> 62:6 246:2		
2		
<b>2:08</b> 221:5		
<b>2:39</b> 221:6		
<b>2000</b> 142:18 190:11 231:6		