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**John Tate II**  
Chairperson

## State of Wisconsin Parole Commission

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PAROLE COMMISSION  
Staff Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021  
3099 East Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53704

Presiding: John Tate II, Chair

Present: Doug Drankiewicz, Jennifer Kramer, Shannon Pierce, Sara Tome, Oliver Buchino

Guests: Chris Donahoe, Ben Turk (FFUP), Malik Mujahid, Wendy Sisavath, Tammy Litsey, Alex Turner, Sabrina Taylor, Michelle Whitney, Elena Bunger, Saja Spearman, Kyle Bright, Emma Caridad-Perez, Lauren Beccue, Saylor Soinski, Issa Kohler Haussmann, Ali Fraerman, Avery Gilbert

This meeting was conducted in-part through Zoom Videoconferencing due to the closure of state office buildings and social distancing guidelines because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting began in open session at 10:00 AM.

Chairman Tate opened by introducing himself and members of the commission.

The Chair announced that he had been reappointed as Chair of the Commission by the Governor, and that the necessary paperwork had been sent over to the State Senate Judiciary Committee for confirmation.

Commissioners Kramer and Pierce gave updates about communicating with the institutions for which documents should be sent to them prior to the reviews. Due to the ongoing pandemic, Commissioners are still not able to visit institutions to review files.

The Chair provided an update to ongoing litigation between the ACLU and the Parole Commission. The Chair noted that there had been over 200 grants authorized in 2020. While not all grants result in release, it is a significant increase from prior years. The Chair noted that some persons-in-custody granted release had subsequently passed, and emphasized the importance of the time they are able to spend in the community beforehand.

Commissioners Drankiewicz and Pierce described their current caseloads. The Chair promoted sharing cases to balance the workload between Commissioners.

ORA Buchino provided an update to the current volume of support and institution correspondence, and noted completed and ongoing work on a number of records requests.

A discussion occurred between the Chair and Commissioners Drankiewicz and Kramer regarding cases with active detainers. Commissioner Kramer described how persons-in-custody with detainers are not able to go below medium custody, and described a need for release planning, including PRIs, in case deportation does not occur.

Commissioner Drankiewicz suggested further communication between the Chair and BOCM could help explore options for deportation cases to go through reduced security before release.

Chairman Tate described the process in applying Executive Directive 31. At the Chair's discretion, ED 31 is being applied in cases where the Chair considers the statutorily-set PED to be excessive compared to the original sentencing.

A discussion was held regarding corresponding with institution staff in cases where the PED was waived under ED 31. The Chair noted a need to keep track of these cases as the statutory PED would remain in WICS.

ORA Tome inquired as to the process if future Chairs of the Commission would decide not to continue reviewing persons-in-custody who had had their PED waived by a previous Chair. The Chair noted that continuing to hold reviews prior to the statutory PED in these cases would be at the discretion of future Chairs. However, the Chair expressed a desire that future Chairs would honor the waived PED, as it is merely a way to start the process of parole consideration sooner, and does not automatically confer release.

The next staff meeting was scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting then transitioned into closed session, and the No Action case presented by Commissioner Drankiewicz was reviewed.

The meeting concluded at approximately 11:00am.