THE MARYLAND PAROLE COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 2018

Annual Report

Larry Hogan	Boyd K. Rutherford	Stephen T. Moyer	David R. Blumberg
Governor	Lieutenant Governor	Secretary	Chairman

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Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

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STATE OF MARYLAND

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

STEPHEN T. MOYER
SECRETARY

WILLIAM G. STEWART
DEPUTY SECRETARY
ADMINISTRATION

J. MICHAEL ZEIGLER
DEPUTY SECRETARY
OPERATIONS

November 5, 2018

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan
Governor of the State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland
2140-1925

Dear Governor Hogan:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report for the Maryland Parole Commission highlighting the agency's activities for Fiscal Year 2018. The report provides an overview of the agency and an overview of the functioning units.

As you know, the Maryland Parole Commission works closely with agencies such as the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Division of Correction and the Division of Parole and Probation by sharing pertinent to assist in the decision making process for parole grants and revocation hearings.

With the assistance of risk assessment instruments, The Commission strives to meet the departmental objectives of paroling the most suitable candidates as close to parole eligibility as possible without compromising public safety in the process.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Sincerely,

Stephen T. Moyer
Secretary

STM/js

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Maryland Parole Commission
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STATE OF MARYLAND

LARRY HOGAN
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STEPHEN T. MOYER
SECRETARY

DAVID R. BLUMBERG
CHAIRMAN

November 5, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Moyer
Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Service
Maryland Parole Commission
300 Joppa Road, Suite 1000
Towson, MD 21286

Dear Secretary Moyer,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Maryland Parole Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018.

The report provides an overview of the agency, highlights of some of the administrative accomplishments, and outlines each functioning unit with its responsibilities.

During this reporting period, the Commission was able to perform satisfactorily under each managing for results objective while implementing new guidelines under the Justice Reinvestment Act.

The commitment and dedication of the staff at the Commission makes it possible to operate in an efficient and effective manner to meet the organizational objectives without jeopardizing the safety of the citizens of the State of Maryland.

The Commission will continue to exercise good judgement on conjunction with the other factors involved in the decision making process for the best possible parole outcomes.

Sincerely,

David R. Blumberg
Chairman

MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Parole Commission aims to provide offenders with timely parole and revocation hearings, strives to promote safe communities by promptly processing retake warrants, uses sounds judgment in conjunction with utilizing validated risk assessment tools during the decision making process, encourages victim input when applicable, maintains strong relationships with other criminal justice agencies, allows access to the general public and releases those offenders who have the potential to become law abiding citizens.

OVERVIEW

Under Title 7 of the Correctional Services Article of the annotated Code of Maryland, the Maryland Parole Commission hears cases for parole release and revocation, and is authorized to parole inmates sentenced to a term of confinement of six months of more from any correctional institution in Maryland except the Patuxent Institution.

The Commission is authorized to issue warrants for the return of alleged violators to custody and revoke supervision upon finding that a violation of the conditions of parole or mandatory supervision release has occurred. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Governor regarding pardons, commutations of sentences and parole of inmates sentenced to life imprisonment.

Currently, there are 10 commissioners including the Chairman, 10 hearing officers, and 48 other staff members employed at the Maryland Parole Commission.

Fiscal Year 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- July 25-27, 2017 Commissioners Begosh, Greene, and Smack attended the National Institute of Corrections training in Colorado.
- August 8-9, 2017 Dr. James Austin conducted training for the Justice Reinvestment Act.
- October 1, 2017 Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) went into effect.
- October 2017 Christine Burke joined the Maryland Parole Commission as Chief Administrator.
- November 2017 Commissioners Greene and Miller joined the JRA task force.
- November 13, 2017 Chairman Blumberg conducted training for Carroll County State's Attorney's office.
- December 1, 2017 Christine Burke met with Goucher College's Prison Education Partnership Program.
- December 9, 2017 Chairman Blumberg attended the Northwest Citizens Patrol anniversary dinner.
- January 9, 2018 Jason Keckler appointed as newest Commissioner for the Maryland Parole Commission.
- February 7-8, 2018 Chairman Blumberg attended budget hearings in Annapolis
- March 5, 2018 Commissioner Jason Keckler is confirmed.
- March 21, 2018 Chairman Blumberg conducts JRA training.
- April 22-25, 2018 Association of Paroling Authorities International Conference, Chairman Blumberg is elected President.
- May 23, 2018 Chairman Blumberg is guest speaker for Baltimore City Office of the Public Defender.

DEFINITIONS

- **Administrative Release** allows certain offenders to be released without a hearing after serving one fourth of sentence and meeting other certain eligibility requirements created by the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA).

- **Administrative Reviews** are not face to face hearings but rather "paper" reviews of offender files at the Commission office. These reviews are conducted at five year intervals until an offender reaches parole eligibility and ensures that all the essential documents and institutional adjustment summaries necessary for a parole hearing are obtained and placed in a case file.

- **Commission Cases** are heard by a panel of two Commissioners and include cases with a loss of life, life sentences, or life sentences with all but a fixed number of years suspended, and open parole hearings.

- **Geriatric Parole** allows offenders that have reached the age of sixty to petition the parole commission for relief under certain criteria established by the Maryland Parole Commission.

- **Gubernatorial Commutation** orders that the grantee shall suffer a lesser penalty for the offense than imposed by the court. The commutation of an offenders' sentence is normally considered by the Parole Commission only upon demonstration of extraordinary circumstances.

- **Gubernatorial Pardon** absolves the grantee of guilt for his criminal act(s), and exempts the grantee from the resulting penalties. Criteria for the pardon consideration are set by the Governor and normally require the passage of a substantial period of time following the end of the incarceration or any form of supervision before a pardon will be entertained.

- **Hearing Officer Cases** are non-Commissioner cases heard by the Hearing Officers who make recommendations reviewed by Commissioners. If the reviewing Commissioner agrees with the Hearing Officers recommendation, that recommendation becomes the Commissioners decision. An offender may appeal this decision to a panel of two Commissioners. In instances where the reviewing Commissioner does not adopt the Hearing Officers recommendation, an in house appeal results and a panel of two Commissioners make a final decision that is not appealable by the offender.

- **Interested Party** is an individual who is not a "victim" but rather an individual who has a "special interest" in the status of the offender as determined by the Commissioners Victim Services Coordinator.

- **Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA)** Bill passed by the Maryland General Assembly that became law on October 1, 2017. The JRA seeks to reduce Maryland's prison

population and use the savings to provide for more effective treatment to offenders, before, during, and after incarceration. This is intended to reduce the likelihood of reoffending, as well as to benefit victims and families. The specific parts of the JRA that pertain to the Maryland Parole Commission provide for administrative release and caps for technical violations of parole or mandatory release.

- **Liaison Agent/ Waiver (LAW)** hearings are revocation hearings conducted by the Commissioners on offenders who have "technical" violations and admit fault/guilt to the stated violations. These offenders waive the presence of an attorney or their agent of record. For these hearings, the Division of Parole and Probation LAW unit provides an agent to act as a liaison agent who testifies during the entire docket as to the facts of each case using information provided by the agent of record.

- **Medical Parole** allows consideration for an inmate who is chronically debilitated, or incapacitated by a medical or mental health condition, disease or syndrome as to be physically incapable of presenting a danger to society to be released on medical parole at any time during the term of that inmate's sentence without regard to parole eligibility.

- **Mandatory Supervision Release** is the release of an offender from the Division of Correction due to diminution credits earned and awarded. The offenders are supervised by parole agents and are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission after release until the maximum expiration of their sentence. Any alleged violation of mandatory release supervision conditions may result in a revocation hearing.

- **Open Parole Hearings** are essentially the same as regular parole grant hearings except it has been opened to the public at the request of the victim or victims representative who is permitted to speak at this hearing. Individuals must make a request in writing to attend these proceedings and the Commission determines who may or may not attend. Open hearings are conducted by two Commissioners.

- **Parole** is the discretionary and conditional release of an offender into the community by the Commission to continue serving the term of confinement under the supervision of an agent of the DPSCS Community Supervision Unit until the expiration of the full, undiminished term. If any conditions of parole are violated, the offender is subject to revocation and re-incarceration.

- **Parole in Absentia** a parole hearing that occurs when an offender is housed in a jurisdiction outside the State of Maryland.

- **Parole Eligibility** is determined by sentence length and the specific crime (s) for which the offender is incarcerated.

- **Parole Grant Hearing** is an interview with the offender conducted by a Commission panel or Hearing Officer to elicit information from and about the offender. This interview along with information contained in the parole file form the basis of the Commissions' decisions.

- **Preliminary Revocation Hearing** is held before a Hearing Officer who determines if probable cause exists with respect to the stated violations. If probably cause is found, the offender is scheduled for a revocation hearing before a Commissioner. Alleged violators may elect to have or waive preliminary revocation hearings.

- **Public Safety Program** is an agreement between the offender and the Commission in which the offender is granted discretionary parole with the stipulation that he/she will received services through the compact provided to those returning to Baltimore City.

- **Revocation Hearings** are conducted by Commissioners on those offenders who allegedly have violated the conditions of parole or mandatory supervision and are returned to the customer of the Division of Correction or a Local Detention Facility. The supervising agent, who initiated the retake warrant process testifies at this hearing and is subject to cross examination. Offenders are represented by the Office of the Public Defender or a private attorney.

- **Victim** is a person (or a designated family member of a deceased person) who has suffered actual or threatened physical, emotional, or financial harm as a direct result of a crime.

Commission Units

Institutional Parole Associates

The Institutional Parole Associates (IPA) are assigned in each region as they are the liaison between the Commission and the Division of Correction. Their responsibilities include but are not limited to providing assistance to the Hearing Officers and Commissioners during parole and revocation hearings, conducting file review with offenders prior to the parole hearing, delivering parole decisions, explaining the appeal process and ensuring that offenders are properly released when scheduled. This unit is also responsible for ensuring that the attendees of Open Parole Hearings are informed of the process and provided an opportunity to ask questions.

Pardon and Executive Clemency UNIT

This Unit is responsible for reviewing and processing all pardon and executive clemency applications, reviewing, and distributing all medical and geriatric parole requests as well as handling all correspondence with the Governor.

- Pardon Applications processed 147
- Medical paroles processed 34

Parole Services UNIT

This unit is responsible for scheduling and docketing all parole grant hearings for DOC and Local Detention facilities to include parole in absentia cases where Maryland offenders are serving sentences in other states.

- DOC hearings conducted 6460
- Detention center hearings conducted 1659
- Detention center hearing on site 1185
- Detention center hearings on video 474
- Parole in absentia hearings 12

POST RELEASE UNIT

The Warrant Unit is responsible for preparing and processing retake warrants, notifying outside jurisdictions of pending parole violations, and updating the appropriate databases for each case.

The Revocation Unit is responsible for scheduling preliminary hearings, issuing subpoenas, and scheduling revocation hearings for offenders incarcerated at the DOC as well as local facilities. It is also the responsibility of this unit to coordinate these hearings with private attorneys and/or public defenders.

- Warrants prepared 2236
- Subpoenas prepared 327
- Revocation hearings conducted 2249
- Preliminary hearings conducted 70
- Supervision revoked 632

RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit is responsible for maintaining parole files on offenders currently incarcerated as well as those under supervision for five years after expiration. They are also responsible for retrieving and processing supervision reports from the Division of Parole and Probation agents. All reports must be prioritized in accordance with the specificity of the request.

- Reports retrieved from the Division of Parole and Probation 7176

RELEASE UNIT

This unit is responsible for preparing parole release orders and coordinating releases for offenders granted parole from the Division of Correction and the 23 Local Detention facilities. Prior to preparing release orders, staff must ensure that the offender is serving a parole eligible offence, have completed all pre-release contingencies, ensure there are no outstanding warrants and/or detainers, and the offenders home plan has been approved.

- Division of Correction Releases 1729
- Local Detention Facility Releases 636

SUPPORT SERVICES UNIT

This Unit is responsible for handling time keeping and personnel matters, securing hotel reservations, assigning state vehicles, maintaining inventory, monitoring fleet usage and maintenance, completing injury reports handling computer issues, maintaining secure access for employees, handling property transfers, and maintaining training schedules.

SECRETARIAL UNIT

This Unit is responsible for providing secretarial support to Commissioners, Hearing Officers, and Administrative staff. This unit is also responsible for coordinating video hearings, (parole and revocation), processing parole decision appeals, monitoring cases placed on hold, distributing incoming mail, providing switchboard coverage, and entering information into the Offender Case Management System (OCMS).

- Incoming Correspondence 31638
- Incoming telephone calls 23106

Victim Services UNIT

This Unit is responsible for ensuring timely notification to victims and/or their representatives of hearings, decisions, and release dates. They are also responsible for scheduling/coordinating Open Parole Hearings, advising victims and/or their representatives of their rights and providing referrals for services.

- Victim notification letters sent to victim or representative 5412

COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES

Sharon Trexler Begosh – appointed in June 2015; term will expire in December 2018. Commissioner Begosh graduated Magna Cum laude from the University of Maryland with a BA degree in Criminology. She was elected to the Phi Betta Kappa National Honor Society at that time due to her academic accomplishments. She began her career with the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation where she rose to the rank of Agent Senior. She was hired by the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation as a founding member of the Pre-trail Services Agency. During her tenure with Montgomery County she held various positions such as Pre-Trial Caseworker, Supervisor for the Drug Intervention Program, and ultimately as Chief of the Pre-Trial Division. Mrs. Begosh retired from county service after twenty six years.

David R Blumberg- Chairman- appointed October 2003; appointed Chairman July 1, 2004; re-appointed in 2010; re-appointed in 2016, term will expire in December 2021. Chairman Blumberg received a BA degree in political Science from Loyola College and a MS degree in Library Science from the University of Maryland. For twenty years, he was the director of the Baltimore City Detention Center Enoch Pratt Library. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Hopkins Club and President of Santa Claus Anonymous. In May 2015, Chairman Blumberg was recognized by the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI), the worldwide organization representing all releasing authorities, with the Ben Baer Award. This award is established to recognize and reward an individual who has demonstrated significant service in the field of parole or community corrections. Chairman Blumberg was elected on July 1, 2018 to be the President of APAI.

John W. E. Cluster Jr. – appointed August 2016; term to expire December 2021. Born in Baltimore Maryland, graduated Catonsville High School 1972, and attended Essex Community College. Commissioner Cluster is a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates from July 2003 to January 2007, January 2011 to July 2016; resigned from membership in July 2016. While serving in the House of Delegates he was honored to be named Legislator of the year many times from the law enforcement community. As a member of the House he served in both the House Environmental Matters from 2003-2007 and House Judiciary Committees 2011-2016. Prior to the House Delegates, Commissioner Cluster worked as the director of Facilities at the Department of Juvenile Services, 2003. Member, Charles H. Hickey Jr., School Advisory Board, 2005-07. Chair, Maryland Correctional Enterprises Management Council, 2015-16.

Steven J. Deboy Sr. – appointed January 2017; term to expire December 2022. Commissioner Deboy graduated from Catonsville Community College with an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice; also graduated from University of Baltimore with e Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Commissioner Deboy graduated from the Baltimore County Police Department Academy in 1977 and served as a police officer and detective for over twenty years before retiring in 1995. He served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 2003-2015 as a representative of Baltimore and Howard Counties. During his legislative tenure he served on the House Appropriations Committee and championed legislation promoting public safety for law enforcement, the fire service, and corrections. Upon his retirement from the legislature he was asked to serve as Deputy Legislative Officer for Governor Larry Hogan. Stationed in the Governor's legislative office he was responsible for the public safety agenda before the Maryland General assembly.

John R. Greene – appointed to an interim term in July 2015; term will expire in December 2018. Before joining the Maryland Parole Commission, Commissioner Greene served as Director of Safety and Security for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). In January 2013, Commissioner Greene retired as an Assistant Bureau Chief of the Maryland State Police (MSP) with a combined twenty-six years of law enforcement and military experience. While serving with the MSP, Commissioner Greene commanded the following units: Drug Enforcement Division, Internal Affairs Section, Administrative Hearing Section and also served as the Executive Officer for the Field Operations Bureau. Commissioner Greene serves on the Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board. Commissioner Greene has earned his M.S. and B.S. degrees in Business Management and an A.A. Degree in Criminal Justice.

Donna M. Hill-appointed to an interim term in September 2010; and re-appointed in March 2014; term will expire in December 2019. Commissioner Hill earned an AA degree in Paralegal Studies from the Prince Georges Community College, a BA degree in Afro-American studies from the University of Maryland College Park, a MS degree in Counseling from the University of Maryland College Park. Also in September 2015, Commissioner Hill earned her certification as a Sherpa Executive Coach. Commissioner Hill is an ordained Minister, a trained counselor, and a former Business School Principal. Commissioner Hill is also a graduate of Leadership Prince George's County. In addition, she served as a member of the Prince Georges Community College Foundation Board from 2010-2012. In 2011, Commissioner Hill was appointed by the Maryland Parole Commission to briefly serve as a member of the Re-Entry Feasibility Committee governed by the Circuit Court of Prince Georges County.

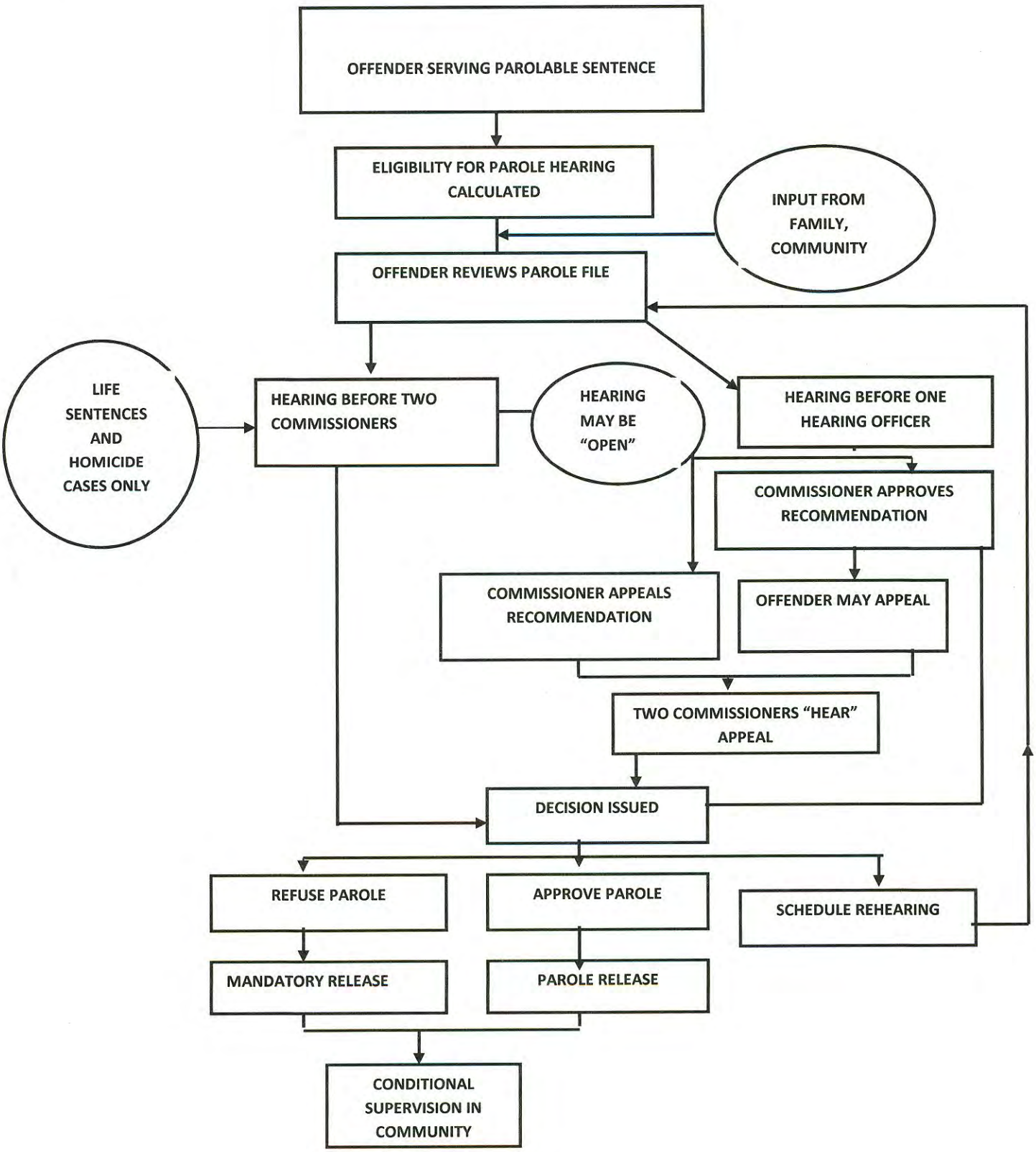
Jason Keckler -appointed in January 2018; term will expire January 2023. Commissioner Keckler retired from the Frederick Police Department as a Lieutenant with 22 years of service. He possesses numerous certifications and was a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and International Association of Ethics Trainers. He remains actively involved in the FBI National Academy Associates. Commissioner Keckler is a graduate of the 246th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. In addition to holding college degrees from Frederick Community College and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, he possesses a Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia. He formerly represented the Frederick Police Department on the Frederick County Coalition for the Homeless and the Frederick Police Activities League Board of Directors.

Jane Chace Miller– appointed September 2016; term expires December 2021. Commissioner Miller is an attorney with a background in family law and criminal defense. She previously served as an Assistant State's Attorney on Maryland's Eastern Shore and as a Special Prosecutor in several other Maryland counties. Commissioner Miller is a Member of the Maryland State Bar Association and former President of her local Bar Association. Commissioner Miller is the former President of the Chesapeake Women's Network and is a currently on the United Way's Board of Directors. She also donates her time to Bosom Buddies, Inc.

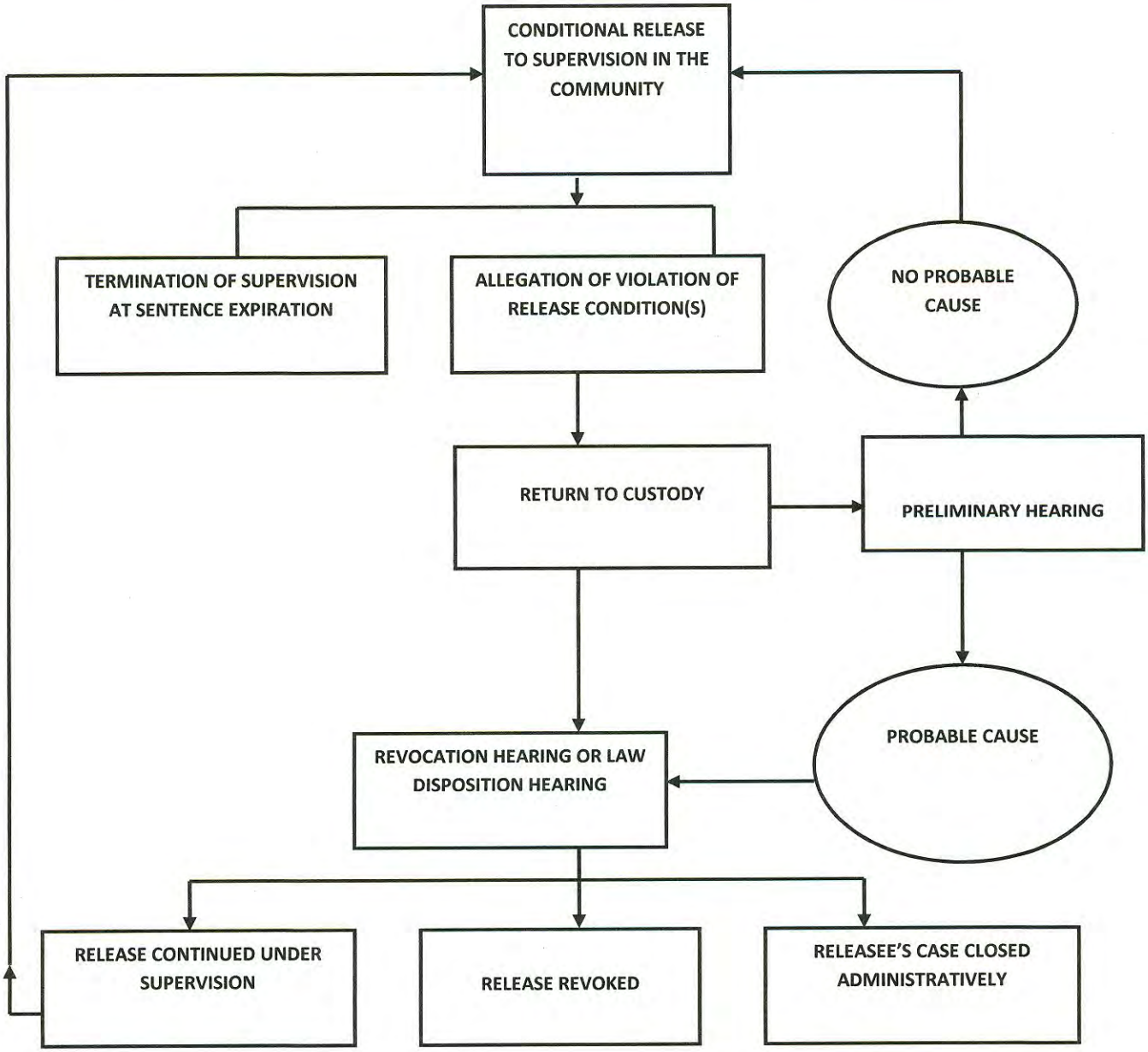
Christopher J. Reynolds – appointed to an interim term in April 2011; re-appointed in January 2012; term expired in December 2017; will serve until re-appointed or replaced by the Governor. Commissioner Reynolds has been engaged in the private practice of law for over 45 years in the District of Columbia and Maryland. He has been active in a number of civic and community groups serving in leadership positions and giving guidance on governance issues. When he is not working on with the Parole Commission, he is a volunteer for the United States Tennis Association (USTA) serving on numerous committees and in several leadership roles.

John D. Smack- appointed in August 2016: term expires in December 2020. Commissioner Smack retired in July 2016 from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office at the rank of Chief Deputy with 29 years of law enforcement experience. Commissioner Smack served as a commander in Patrol, SWAT and Special Operations. Smack received additional training from the University of Louisville, Southern Police Institute and FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development. Smack was elected as an Orphans' Court Judge for Worcester County in 2006, 2010 and 2014. In 2014 Smack was appointed by Governor Hogan as the Chief Judge until his current appointment. He has served with several organizations in his community as a member of the Board of Directors and also as President.

APPENDIX I: PAROLE HEARING FLOW CHART



APPENDIX II: PAROLE AND MANDATORY SUPERVISION PROCESS FLOW CHART



APPENDIX III: STANDARD CONDITIONS OF PAROLE

1. **Report as directed to and follow your Parole Agent's instructions.**

2. **Work regularly.**

3. **Get permission before:**

   a. Changing your home;

   b. Changing your job; or

   c. Leaving the State of Maryland

4. **Obey all laws.**

5. **Notify your Parole Agent immediately if you are arrested.**

6. **You shall not illegally possess, use, or sell any narcotic drug, "controlled dangerous substance", or related paraphernalia.**

7. **You shall not own, possess, use, sell, or have under your control any dangerous weapon or firearms of any description without approval of the Parole Commission.**

8. **You shall so conduct yourself as not to present a danger to yourself or others.**

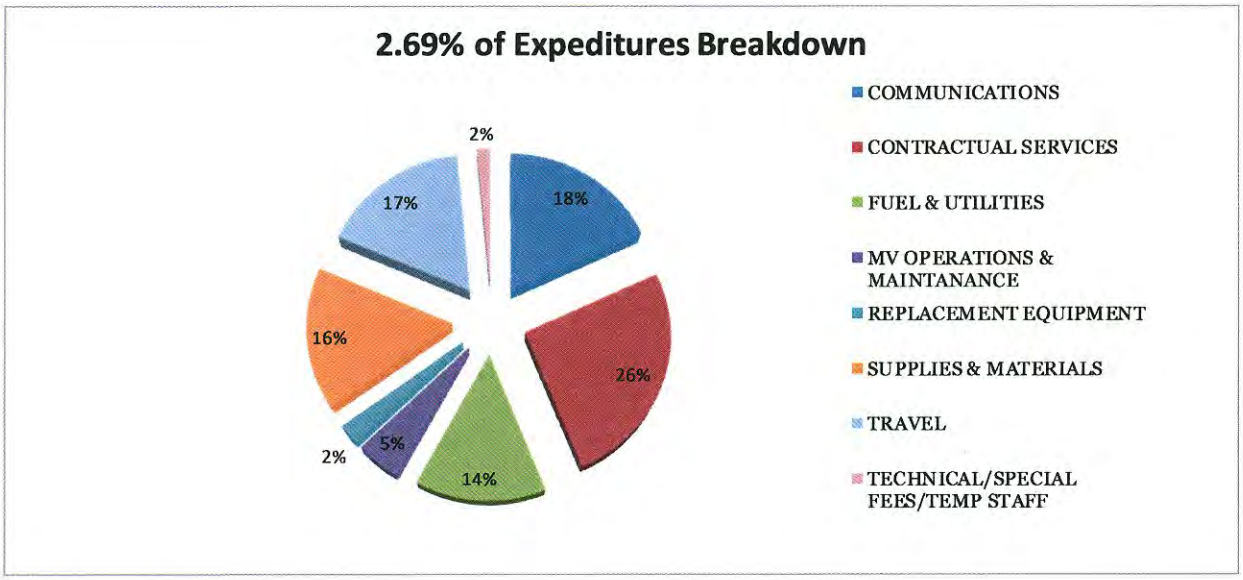
9. **Special conditions: See page 1 of this agreement.**

   NOTE: Conditions 10 and 11 apply to parolees whose term of confinement resulted from a crime or crimes committed on or after May 1, 1991.

10. **You must pay a monthly supervision fee as required by law unless the Parole Commission exempts you wholly or partly from payment of the fee.**

11. **If ordered by the Parole Commission to undergo drug or alcohol abuse testing, you must pay for the testing if required to do so by the Division of Parole and Probation**

BUDGET EXPENDITURES

BUDGET EXPENDITURES - FISCAL YEAR 2018

CATERGORY	EXPENDITURE	% OF EXPENDITURE
COMMUNICATIONS	31,746	0.49%
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	44,770	0.69%
FUEL & UTILITIES	24,455	0.38%
MV OPERATIONS & MAINTANANCE	8,708	0.13%
REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT	3,565	0.06%
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS	28,300	0.44%
TRAVEL	30,000	0.46%
TECHNICAL/SPECIAL FEES/TEMP STAFF	1,951	0.04%
LEASE (FIXED CHARGES)	169,717	2.63%
SALARIES WAGES & FRINGE BENEFITS	6,112,261	94.68%
	6,455,473	100.00%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	6,455,473	
LESS SALARIES & FEES	6,114,212	
	171,544	
LESS LEASE (FIXED CHARGES)	169,717	
CONTROLLABLE EXPEDITURES	173,495	
%OF EXPEDITURES	2.69%