



State of New Jersey

STATE PAROLE BOARD

JON S. CORZINE, GOVERNOR

PETER J. BARNES JR., CHAIRMAN

Post Office Box 862

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Media Release

For Immediate Release:

1/10/08

For more information contact:

Neal Buccino

(609) 292-4031, office

(609) 468-9728, cell

Barnes Applauds Re-Appointment of Carmen M. Garcia As State Parole Board Member

TRENTON - Chairman Peter J. Barnes Jr. today applauded the re-appointment of Carmen M. Garcia, as a Member of the New Jersey State Parole Board.

The full Senate this week confirmed Governor Corzine's nomination of Garcia for re-appointment to a six-year term.

"Judge Garcia has proven herself an invaluable member of the State Parole Board, and an invaluable asset to Governor Corzine's Anti-Crime and Reentry initiatives, with her expertise and commitment to preventing new crimes and helping juvenile offenders learn how to change their lives and become law-abiding citizens," Barnes said. "Every New Jersey citizen who cares about crime prevention should applaud her re-appointment to the State Parole Board."

"I am deeply honored and grateful to continue serving the people of New Jersey, and working to implement Governor Corzine's strategy for the successful reentry and rehabilitation of ex-inmates and juvenile offenders," Garcia said.

Garcia continued, "As a Parole Board Member, I too often see young offenders who are the children of some of the very same people I saw as criminal defendants as a Municipal Court Judge in Trenton. The cycle of crime and incarceration is very real, and it can only be broken by focused partnerships like those created in Governor Corzine's reentry plan."

Garcia, who grew up in Camden and Pennsauken, is one of two appointed Parole Board Members exclusively assigned to decide parole matters related to juvenile offenders housed in juvenile institutional and residential facilities under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC), as well as juvenile offenders housed in State prisons. Garcia also serves as the Chairman's designee on the Criminal Disposition Commission Expungement Subcommittee, and serves as vice chair of the State Parole Board's Decision-Making and Regulatory Affairs Committee.

(more)

Along with Board Member Veleria N. Lawson, who is also assigned to juvenile parole matters, Garcia personally interviews every juvenile offender housed in a JJC or Department of Corrections (DOC)

facility on a regular basis, to help the youths develop short-term and long-term goals toward changing their lives and having a legitimate future in society. Garcia and Lawson also work with government and community groups to help ensure juvenile offenders will have access to programs and support designed to aid in their successful reentry into society.

Garcia was first appointed as a Parole Board Member in 2004, to fill an unexpired term. She was assigned to the Parole Board's Juvenile Panel in July 2005. Since she began serving on the State Parole Board, Garcia has conducted approximately 8,000 in-person hearings on juvenile and adult cases.

Prior to her appointment, Garcia served as Chief Judge of the Municipal Court of Trenton. A seasoned attorney, Garcia clerked for the Honorable Joseph H. Rodriguez, U.S.D.J., and was Assistant Counsel to Governor Kean in the areas of education, labor and personnel issues. Garcia remains active in the Hispanic State and National Bar Associations and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and as a trustee of the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association, a member of the Hospital Board of Directors for Capitol Health System Inc, and a member of the Youth Conference executive committee of the Latina Women's Council of Mercer County. She is a member of the Rutgers University Law School in Camden Alumni Association, and serves on the law school's selection committee for the Arthur Armitage Distinguished Alumni Award and Honorable Joseph M. Nardi Jr. Distinguished Service Award. Garcia also mentors students at the law school, college and high school level.

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is New Jersey's lead reentry agency, and works to ensure ex-prisoners return to society as law-abiding citizens. As required by law, appointed Parole Board Members and staff conduct more than 20,000 hearings per year, solicit input from victims and decide parole matters. SPB's sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,000 offenders statewide. In addition, SPB is New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. SPB officers are also active partners with multiple Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit and private agencies to connect ex-prisoners with vocational, mental health and related services, targeted to break the cycle and risk of crime.

###