



State of New Jersey

STATE PAROLE BOARD

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State Parole Board, Irvington Announce Crime-Fighting Partnership *State Parole Board's MOU with Irvington to Launch a Statewide Model for local Law Enforcement Initiatives*

IRVINGTON – Chairman Peter J. Barnes today joined Irvington Mayor Wayne Smith in announcing a new crime-fighting partnership that will involve direct data sharing and joint law-enforcement missions between State parole officers and Irvington Police Department officers.

“Due to their daily activities in supervising ex-prisoners, parole officers have a wealth of expert knowledge and criminal intelligence that must be shared with the rest of the law enforcement community,” Barnes said. “This partnership will give the parole and police officers better eyes for investigation, and longer arms for enforcement, for Irvington’s public safety. We look forward to making it a statewide model.”

“This collaboration will enhance our public safety efforts and also provide other support services for parolees and their families,” Smith said.

The agreement, signed today by Barnes, Smith, State Parole Board Executive Director Joseph Shields and Irvington Police Director Michael V. Damiano, will create no new or additional costs for the taxpayers of Irvington or New Jersey.

The State Parole Board and Irvington Police Department will engage in:

Joint field operations. Parole officers and municipal police officers will team up to conduct curfew checks at parolees’ homes; and to execute municipal warrants and parole warrants. Through joint operations, both agencies will benefit from larger teams that can accomplish more during these fundamental law enforcement missions.

Direct data sharing. Municipal police officers will benefit from up-to-the-minute knowledge of the individuals under parole supervision in the Township of Irvington, with details of their supervision status. If municipal police observe a parolee who is not committing a crime but may be violating a condition of parole, they can immediately notify parole officers.

Establishment of a designated liaison officer at each agency. Having a designated point of contact will enable rapid intelligence sharing during investigations. Municipal police will reach out to the State Parole Board liaison if a parolee is considered a witness or suspect in a new crime. Parole officers will reach out to the municipal police liaison to obtain police data for parole violations.

(more)

In keeping with the goals of Governor Corzine's Strategy for Safe Streets and Neighborhoods, the agreement between the State Parole Board and the Township of Irvington will serve as the first of a series of partnerships the State Parole Board plans to sign with municipalities across New Jersey. The agreement is similar to a series of partnerships Barnes recently launched between each of the State Parole Board's district offices and the FBI.

Barnes, a 26-year veteran FBI special agent and former director of the Edison and East Brunswick Police Departments, is committed to enhancing the State Parole Board's public safety mission. On Monday, January 14, the State Parole Board's newest class of parole officer recruits began training at the Somerset County Police Academy. The 24-week training course is 10 weeks longer than previous academy classes, and will reflect parole officers' expanded responsibilities in street gang suppression, sex offender supervision, criminal investigations, homeland security and other assignments.

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 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.

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