



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:
(November 29), 2007

For more information contact:
Joseph Shields, Executive Director
(609) 984-6100
Captain Sean Asay
(609) 777-2155 (office)
(609) 618-1010 (cell)
Captain Anne McGrath
(609) 826-5487 (office)
(609) 468-9738 (cell)

Parole Board Votes Unanimously to Restrict Sex Offender Internet Socializing

Trenton--State Parole Board (SPB) Members voted unanimously to impose a supervision condition on 4,400 sex offenders under Parole Board supervision that will prohibit them from using the Internet to socialize. Parole Board Chairman Peter Barnes proposed the new restriction after law enforcement officials working for the Board reported to him that data received under subpoena from several social networking websites revealed that sex offenders under Parole Board supervision had created profiles on those sites that could potentially be used to lure new victims.

"The protection of all of our citizens and particularly our young people makes the imposition of this new restriction critical," stated Chairman Barnes.

Captain Anne McGrath, who oversees the Parole Board's Sex Offender Management Unit, told the Board Members that sex offenders under supervision would begin to be notified on Thursday of the new prohibition. The prohibition on Internet social networking takes effect immediately.

The State Parole Board has been actively working with the Attorney General's office and other law enforcement agencies as part of widespread efforts to monitor on-line activities of dangerous sexual offenders. By statute, SPB is New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision.

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. SPB's sworn Parole Officers supervise more than 15,000 offenders statewide. SPB Officers are also active partners with several 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.

-###-