



## State of New Jersey

### STATE PAROLE BOARD

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# Media Release

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## **State Parole Board, Camden Announce Crime-Fighting Partnership** *State Parole Board's MOU with Camden Part of a Statewide Model for local Law Enforcement Initiatives*

CAMDEN – Chairman Peter J. Barnes Jr. today joined Camden Chief Operating Officer, Judge Theodore Z. Davis, and Mayor Gwendolyn A. Faison, in announcing a new crime-fighting partnership that will involve direct data sharing and joint law-enforcement missions between State parole officers and Camden Police Department officers.

“Due to their daily activities in supervising ex-offenders, 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 Camden’s public safety. We look forward to making it a statewide model.”

“This partnership lives up to the demands of Governor Corzine’s public safety strategy, which calls for greater information sharing and partnerships between law enforcement agencies,” Davis said. “Under this partnership, the residents of Camden can consider State parole officers a supplement to the municipal police force, and Camden police officers a partner in the reentry of ex-offenders.”

“This Police-Parole Partnership allows our agencies to better focus existing resources for public safety, without creating any new costs to the taxpayers of Camden or the State,” Faison said. “The City of Camden is proud to host what can and should become a statewide model for anti-crime initiatives.”

“This MOU allows the State Parole Board and the Camden Police Department to conduct joint field operations and establish a designated point of contact enabling rapid intelligence sharing during investigations. This consolidation of resources benefits the efficiency and capabilities of both organizations,” Camden Police Department Director, Carmelo V. Huertas Jr. said.

The agreement, signed today by Barnes, Davis, Faison, Huertas, State Parole Board Executive Director Joseph Shields, and Director Thomas James of the Division of Parole, will create no new or additional costs for the taxpayers of Camden or New Jersey.

Under this agreement, the State Parole Board and Camden Police Department engage in:

Joint field operations. Parole officers and municipal police officers deploy for joint street patrols and related missions, targeted to current and expected future public safety needs. Through joint operations, the public benefits from a visible law enforcement presence. The parole and police agencies benefit by

having larger teams that can accomplish more during fundamental law enforcement missions. In addition, by working together the agencies provide a clear reminder to parolees that society is vested in holding them accountable for their role in successfully reentering the community.

Direct data sharing. Municipal police officers benefit from up-to-the-minute knowledge of the individuals under parole supervision in Camden, 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.

Intelligence sharing between the State Parole Board and Camden Police Department takes many forms, including task force meetings, database development and interaction with agencies such as the FBI, State Police, Camden County Prosecutor's Office, High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Task Force and others.

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

In keeping with the goals of Governor Corzine's Strategy for Safe Streets and Neighborhoods, the agreement is the second of a series of partnerships the State Parole Board plans to sign with municipalities across New Jersey. The first was signed with the Township of Irvington, on January 18. The agreements are similar to 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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