



## State of New Jersey

### STATE PAROLE BOARD

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# Media Release

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## “Smart New Investment in Crime Prevention” Op-Ed by Barnes

TRENTON – Today’s Star-Ledger includes an editorial by Chairman Peter J. Barnes Jr. titled, “A smart new investment in crime prevention.”

“New Jersey is about to make a public safety investment that promises to put more law enforcement officers on the streets while providing an estimated net savings of \$16.2 million over the next two fiscal years. As a lifelong law enforcement professional, I see this plan as long overdue and a sound investment in preventing new crimes and ensuring the safety of families and communities,” the editorial begins.

The editorial describes the proposal for Residential Assessment Centers (RACs) “to target technical parole violators – parolees who have not committed a new crime or substantially threatened public safety but have simply violated the terms of parole supervision.”

The editorial can be viewed as a PDF: <http://www.state.nj.us/parole/docs/oped.5.12.08.pdf>

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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