



# News Release

State of New Jersey

**STATE PAROLE BOARD**

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SHEILA Y. OLIVER, LT. GOVERNOR

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## **NJ STATE PAROLE BOARD CHAIRMAN SAMUEL J. PLUMERI, JR. WELCOMES CANADIAN PAROLE CHAIRPERSON JENNIFER OADES**

### **MEETING BETWEEN COLLEAGUES FROM TWO COUNTRIES YIELDS POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISTRIBUTION OF IDEAS ABOUT PAROLE OPERATIONS, PROGRAMS, AND BEST PRACTICES**

TRENTON, NJ – New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. welcomed Jennifer Oades, Chairperson of the Parole Board of Canada at the Trenton office to discuss, share, and compare parole processes.

Chairman Plumeri clearly explained that there are several factors that contribute to New Jersey's low recidivism rate for parolees. While the national average recidivism rate averages 43% New Jersey's rate is lower at 40%. Chairman Plumeri indicated to Chairperson Oades that the State Parole Board's success can be attributed to the following components:

- Competent and judicious release decisions by parole board members
- Effective supervision by parole officers
- Use of technology, which includes GPS monitoring
- Operational use of community programs and contracted partnerships

“We were delighted to welcome and host Chairperson Oades, who travelled all the way from Canada to gain a better understanding of how a different parole board functions,” said Chairman Plumeri. “Not only were we able to provide Chairperson Oades with a keen and thorough understanding of New Jersey's parole process and its effective mechanisms, but we learned about how Canada operates and reduces recidivism rates in its country. It was a very stimulating and productive discussion and hopefully the beginning of a continued partnership.”



*Jennifer Oades, Chairperson, Parole Board of Canada (left) and New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri (right) together following the presentation of a framed New Jersey State Parole Board patch that was presented to Chairperson Oades by Chairman Plumeri*

Chairperson Oades said, “On behalf of the Parole Board of Canada, I am grateful for the opportunity to visit New Jersey. The past few days have been extremely productive – a visit to Volunteers of America Delaware Valley’s reentry programs, meeting with the New Jersey State Parole Board Chairman Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. and vibrant discussions with New Jersey’s key policymakers regarding the state’s recent criminal justice reforms and their greater impact.”

“The protection of society continues to be paramount to our Board’s work and speaks to our overall mission,” continued Chairperson Oades. “This is an ideal shared by the state of New Jersey, as made apparent by their innovative approach to improving the state’s criminal justice system and progressive reforms. The results are a testament to these efforts, with New Jersey continuing to lead the United States in the reduction of their state’s prison population.”

In addition to meeting with one another, Chairman Plumeri and Chairperson Oades met with Daniel L. Lombardo, President and CEO of Volunteers of America, Inc., Delaware Valley Chapter. Mr. Lombardo said, “I would like to personally thank the Canadian Parole Board Chairperson Ms. Jennifer Oades for her visit to New Jersey this week. It is important for New Jersey to stay at the forefront of criminal justice reform efforts, and under Chairman Samuel Plumeri’s leadership the state continues to serve as a model for best practices and creative approaches to reform of the criminal justice system.”

Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. was confirmed as an Associate Board Member of the New Jersey State Parole Board on June 25, 2009. He was designated Vice Chairman on July 6, 2009 by Governor Jon S. Corzine, then re-designated by Governor Chris Christie on August 6, 2010. Vice Chairman Plumeri became Acting Chairman on December 22, 2017 upon the resignation of former Chairman James T. Plousis. On August 27, 2018 Governor Phil Murphy nominated Vice Chairman Plumeri for the position of Chairman. His nomination is pending Senate confirmation.

Prior to joining the State Parole Board, Mr. Plumeri served at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as Police Superintendent and Director of Public Safety, a position he assumed in May 2004. As leader of the Port Authority Police, Mr. Plumeri was responsible for overseeing the safety of millions of passengers and customers who used the agency’s vast network of transportation facilities as well as ensuring the safe, secure and efficient operation of the Port Authority’s airports, bridges, tunnels, rail and seaport facilities. Joining the Port Authority Police Department only months after the 9/11 terroristic attacks, Mr. Plumeri served as Deputy Superintendent of Police for Intelligence and

Training, where he established the agency's intelligence gathering initiatives and created intelligence management systems.

In 1986, Mr. Plumeri was appointed to the Mercer County Sheriff's Office as Undersheriff. In 1989 he was promoted to First Undersheriff, a title he held until May 1990, when Governor James J. Florio appointed him Mercer County Sheriff. Mr. Plumeri won the 1990 election as Sheriff and was re-elected by overwhelming margins in 1993, 1996 and 1999.

In 1970, Mr. Plumeri joined the Trenton Police Department where he began his career in law enforcement and calling in public service. After three years of "walking the beat" as a police officer on the streets of Trenton, Mr. Plumeri was promoted to the highly sensitive Special Services Unit; assigned Chief of Intelligence to the Trenton-Mercer Organized Crime Strike Force; and named to the Criminal Investigation Bureau/Major Crimes Unit.

Mr. Plumeri is a Rider University graduate and is inducted into the Rider University Alumni Hall of Fame. He has also received many other countless honors; including being named the recipient of the United State Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundations' Captain Peter Mucci Award and the National Police Defense Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award. He was honored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation as Humanitarian of the Year. He has also been inducted into the Italian-American National Hall of Fame and the Alumni Hall of Fame at Rider University and Notre Dame High School.



*Chairperson Oades (left), Chairman Plumeri (center) and Daniel L. Lombardo (right) gather at the New Jersey State Parole Board following a meeting where Chairperson Oades met to learn about how the New Jersey State Parole Board operate*

Jennifer Oades was appointed Chairperson, Parole Board of Canada, on January 31, 2018. Ms. Oades has worked for over 25 years in the corrections and conditional release profession. She held numerous positions in the Correctional Service of Canada, including Parole Officer, Senior Policy Advisor, Director General Policy, and Deputy Commissioner for Women. In addition, Ms. Oades was the first Executive Director of the *International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA)* where she

provided leadership in its formal establishment and led the organization of the ICPA's first five international conferences. Ms. Oades is the recipient of numerous awards, including the President's Award from the *International Community Corrections Association*, the Commissioner's Commendation Award, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the *International Corrections and Prisons Association* award for outstanding contribution. Ms. Oades holds a B.A. in Anthropology and Native Studies from Trent University.

Daniel L. Lombardo has been President/CEO of Volunteers of America Delaware Valley, Inc. since 1988. He has a broad array of experience in human services; management; program assessment and development; and budget planning and development. Lombardo was appointed by the Governor of New Jersey to the first-ever New Jersey Sentencing Policy Study Commission; was appointed by the Mayor of Philadelphia to a mayoral Task Force on Management and Productivity; and was chosen by the Governor of New Jersey to serve as a member of the New Jersey Family Development Advisory Board and the New Jersey Parole Advisory Board. Mr. Lombardo was subsequently elected Chairman of the New Jersey Parole Advisory Board. Dan also has served as a N.J. gubernatorial appointee to the Asset Monitorization Task Force; the NJ Corrections Government Efficiency and Reform (GEAR) Commission; and the selection task force for the NJ Commissioner of Corrections.

#### **About the New Jersey State Parole Board**

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing effective methods to aid former inmates in reentering society, and to reduce the recidivism of offenders while addressing the needs of crime victims. As required by law, appointed parole board members and staff conduct approximately 13,500 hearings per year, solicit input from victims, and decide upon parole matters. Nearly 400 sworn SPB parole officers supervise more than 15,500 offenders and act as New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. Additionally, SPB officers are also active partners with a variety of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, the SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit, and private agencies to connect former inmates with vocational, mental health, and related services.

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