



NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF NEW JERSEY State Parole Board

Phillip D. Murphy, Governor
Sheila Y. Oliver, Lt. Governor
Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr., Chairman

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For Immediate Release

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SAMUEL J. PLUMERI, JR. APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD

**Dedicated Public Safety Professional to Lead One of State's Largest Law Enforcement
Agencies Responsible for the Supervision of More Than 15,000 Offenders**

TRENTON, NJ, May 13, 2019— The New Jersey State Senate today voted to approve Governor Phil Murphy's appointment of Samuel J. Plumeri, Jr. to become Chairman of the New Jersey State Parole Board. Chairman Plumeri, who had been most recently been serving in the role as acting chairman, joined the State Parole Board in 2009 and held the positions of Associate Board Member before being designated Vice Chairman.



“New Jersey is committed to reexamining criminal justice in a number of critical areas,” **said Governor Phil Murphy.** “Investing in reentry programs is a hallmark of the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 budget and I am confident that with Chairman Plumeri’s vast knowledge of law enforcement, leadership, and vision we will successfully transform our parole practices in a way that further reduces New Jersey’s prison population and recidivism rate.”

“I am honored to be appointed to lead the New Jersey State Parole Board,” said Chairman Plumeri. “In my 10 years serving as this agency’s Associate Board Member, Vice Chairman, and interim Chairman, I have consistently seen how its dedicated law enforcement and civilian staff have been steadfast in their commitment towards ensuring public safety and promoting successful and sustainable offender reintegration. Under the leadership of Governor Murphy, and with the support of our conscience Board Members, and the men and women of the State Parole Board, I know that we will continue to make an impactful difference for New Jersey’s communities through our successful programs, supervision practices, and judicious release decisions.”

As State Parole Board Chairman, Mr. Plumeri oversees an organization that serves as the state's lead reentry agency working to ensure that ex-offenders return to society as law-abiding citizens. Additionally, he is charged with reducing the state's recidivism rate—the tendency of a convicted criminal to re-offend. Under Chairman Plumeri's leadership, New Jersey's recidivism rate has dropped to 31%, compared to the national average of 67.8%, making it one of the lowest in the country.

Prior to joining the State Parole Board, Chairman Plumeri served at the Port Authority of NY & NJ as Superintendent of Police and Director of Public Safety. He joined the agency following the attacks of September 11, 2001, and faced the immediate challenge of providing safety and security for tens of millions of people who used the Port Authority's vast network of transportation facilities each year in a post-9/11 world.

In 1990, Chairman Plumeri was elected Mercer County Sheriff where he instituted many public safety programs for senior citizens, most notably his national award-winning "Blue Light Program." He also developed and established the county's first K9 Bomb Detection Unit and County Wide Emergency Response Teams. Chairman Plumeri was re-elected Sheriff by overwhelming margins in 1993, 1996 and 1999.

Prior to being elected Sheriff, Chairman Plumeri was appointed Undersheriff of Mercer County where he oversaw all training, special operations and special investigations. In 1989, he was promoted to First Undersheriff, a title he held until May 1990, when Governor James J. Florio appointed him County Sheriff.

Chairman Plumeri began his law enforcement career when he joined the Trenton Police Division. He walked the proverbial cop beat as an officer before eventually being promoted to the highly sensitive Special Services Unit. As an undercover operative, he removed millions of dollars of illegal narcotics from the streets and shut down high-level drug distributors – work that is still considered legendary. His talent with the Trenton PD as an undercover agent was soon recognized, and he was assigned Chief of Intelligence to the Trenton-Mercer Organized Crime Strike Force.

In addition to serving in a variety of roles with local community, non-profit, civic and charitable organizations, Chairman Plumeri is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Capital Health, a network of three regional community hospitals throughout Mercer County.

Chairman Plumeri is a graduate of Rider University and lives in Hamilton Township, New Jersey with his wife, Barbara. He is the proud father of two grown children, Jessica and Matthew, and his two grandchildren, Nina Rose and Samuel Joseph.

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing effective methods to aid supervised offenders 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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