April 28, 2010

David J. Rosen  
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer  
State House Annex  
P.O. Box 068  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0068

Dear Mr. Rosen:

In response to Chairman Sarlo’s April 23, 2010 letter requesting a written response to the question raised by Senator Cunningham at the Senate and Budget Appropriations Committee on April 22, 2010, I offer the following:

**Request:**

Please provide the committee with a report outlining the Parole Board’s procedure for apprehending parolees who have outstanding warrants.

**Response:**

Upon a Parole Officer determining that a parolee under their supervision has absconded from supervision, the case is reviewed by a Parole Supervisor. If the Parole Supervisor concurs with the conclusion that the parolee has absconded from supervision, a parole warrant is immediately issued for the arrest of the parolee. The parole warrant is listed in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database and thus the information on the parole absconder and any particular warnings or alerts are made available to every law enforcement agency in the United States.

The assigned Parole Officer is then tasked with making efforts to locate the parole absconder and return him/her to custody. These efforts may include visits to the last known residence of the parolee, interviews with known associates and family members, law enforcement intelligence research and interaction with other law enforcement agencies. Parolees who are not apprehended within thirty days and cases which are deemed to pose a particular immediate threat to the community are transferred to the Division of Parole's Fugitive Unit.
The Division's Fugitive Unit is staffed by Parole Officers and Parole Supervisors who have specialized training and experience in the apprehension of fugitives. In addition, they have access to intelligence resources and equipment that are used in the planning and execution of intra-agency and interagency apprehension operations. These Parole Officers are tasked with thoroughly reviewing each case they receive, preparing all known leads for follow-up and preparing an apprehension plan that is reviewed and ultimately approved by their supervisor prior to implementation. These Parole Officers attend specialized training both as individuals and as a group and they are prepared at all times to assist with parole fugitive cases that require immediate attention or present particular tactical challenges.

All of our Fugitive Unit Parole Officers and Supervisors are deputized as Special Deputy United States Marshals. Five Parole Officers assigned to the Fugitive Unit are full time members of the U.S. Marshals Service New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force. These Parole Officers work daily as members of task forces in all regions of the state apprehending fugitives who are wanted by the Parole Board or any other law enforcement agency in the United States and beyond.

During the past six months our Fugitive Unit has cleared 478 parole fugitive cases, 230 of those offenders were arrested by our Fugitive Unit Officers with the remainder apprehended by our partner law enforcement agencies. The ongoing work of our Fugitive Unit is demonstrative of the Parole Board's commitment to public safety, offender accountability and the use of proven re-entry strategies.

Please feel free to contact my office should you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Yolette C. Ross
Chairman