



State of New Jersey

NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD

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April 15, 2011

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

RE: Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Response

Dear Mr. Rosen:

The following is in response to Senator Cunningham's question following the State Parole Board's Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearing.

- Please provide the committee with a report on the recent incident where an inmate released early under P.L. 2009, c. 330 has been arrested for murder in Jersey City.

Name and Number:	Rondell Jones, SBI #803125D
Date of Offense:	September 19, 2008
Original Charges:	Conspiracy (2C:5-2), Possession CDS with Intent to Distribute (Heroin) (2C:35-5), 3 <sup>rd</sup> degree
Date of Sentence:	January 22, 2010
Final Charges:	Conspiracy (2C:5-2), Possession of CDS with Intent to Distribute (2C:35-5), 3 <sup>rd</sup> degree
Indictment Number:	08-10-1063
Sentence:	3 years, 1 year mandatory-minimum, concurrent to Ind. #09-04-748
Date of Offense:	January 5, 2009
Original Charges:	Unlawful Possession Weapon, Handgun (9 mm Para P228 BB handgun) (2C:39-5B), 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree
Date of Sentence:	January 22, 2010
Final Charges:	Unlawful Possession Weapon (2C:39-5B), 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree
Indictment Number:	09-04-748
Sentence:	3 years, 1 year mandatory-minimum, concurrent to Ind. #08-10-1063

Pursuant to the Statutory Early Release Statute (N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.51d) an inmate sentenced to a term of incarceration in a State correctional institution who has declined to participate in the parole hearing process or has been denied discretionary parole release shall nevertheless be released to parole supervision six months prior to the expiration date of the inmate's maximum term of incarceration. This provision does not apply to any inmate who has been previously granted discretionary parole and subsequently revoked and returned to custody; any inmate serving a sentence subject to the No Early Release Act, N.J.S.A. 2C:43-7.2; or any inmate serving a sentence imposed for aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual contact, kidnapping pursuant to paragraph N.J.S.A. 2C:13-1(c)(2), endangering the welfare of a child by engaging in sexual conduct which would impair or debauch the morals of a child pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(a), endangering the welfare of a child pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(b)(3) or N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4(b)(4), luring, or an attempt to commit any of these offenses.

On April 9, 2010 the State Parole Board conducted a two member Panel hearing and established a parole release date. On July 20, 2010 Rondell Jones was charged with an institutional infraction for possession of a cell phone. An administrative hold was placed on the parole date and his parole date was rescinded on September 8, 2010. A statutory release date was set for January 24, 2011 due to his maximum date being July 13, 2011.

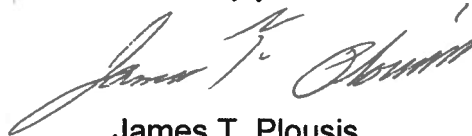
Rondell Jones was released from the Garden State Youth Correctional Facility on January 24, 2011, pursuant N.J.S.A. 30:4-123.51d, with a maximum sentence date of July 13, 2011. Rondell Jones provided the following address as his intended residence: 18 Fulton Avenue, Apartment #4, Jersey City, New Jersey. He was assigned to Parole District Office #4 located in Jersey City. Rondell Jones arrived for his first visit at the parole office on January 24, 2011.

Rondell Jones failed to report to his parole officer on February 10, 2011. Parole officers attempted to contact him several times at his residence with negative results. Numerous telephone calls were made to the phone number Rondell Jones provided to his parole officer without speaking to him. Rondell Jones was declared an absconder on March 3, 2011 for failing to report, failing to reside at approved residence, and failure to attend mental health counseling. An arrest warrant was issued for Rondell Jones' arrest on March 3, 2011.

At approximately 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2011, Eric Thomas of Newark was shot and killed at a house party in Jersey City. Witnesses state that Rondell Jones intervened in an argument between Eric Thomas and a friend of Jones'. Rondell Jones allegedly shot Thomas several times in the back. Rondell Jones was charged by the Hudson County Prosecutor's office with Murder. He was subsequently apprehended by the US Marshal's Service at 9:55 a.m. on March 8, 2011 at a residence located on Belmont Avenue, Jersey City, which was not his residence on record.

Please feel free to contact me should you require additional information.

Sincerely yours,



James T. Plouis  
Chairman