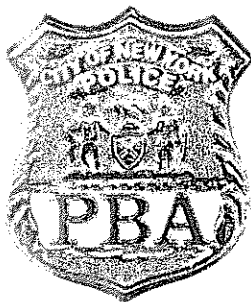


*Patrolmen's
Benevolent
Association*

Of The City Of New York, Incorporated



November 3, 2010

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Andrea W. Evans
Chairwoman and CEO
New York State Board of Parole
97 Central Avenue
Albany, New York 12206

Dear Ms. Evans:

As president of the New York City Patrolmen's Benevolent Association it is my duty and privilege to zealously represent all active, retired and family members of New York City Police Officers killed in the line of duty.

From an historical perspective, since 1963, my organization has had 172 active members killed in the line of duty (combat deaths). Presently we have approximately 248 killers of New York City Police Officers incarcerated in various facilities in New York State. Unfortunately, due to the indeterminate sentences of twenty-five years to life imposed under the former statutory sentencing scheme, many of these cop killers have recently become eligible for parole consideration after serving sentences of less than life.

I am writing to address a concern that has been occurring with increasing regularity. Cop killer inmates are "forum shopping" by adjourning their scheduled parole hearings for no legitimate reason. When Parole Commissioners arrive at the respective institution, the inmates have the ability to identify which commissioners will be hearing the cases on that particular day. If in the inmate's view, an individual commissioner is not considered favorable for his release, the killer simply adjourns the hearing looking for a more favorable panel. This abuse of process goes to the integrity of the entire process and must cease immediately.


Moreover, this rampant "Parole Commissioner shopping" causes the families of the slain Police Officers to suffer the trauma of adjournment after adjournment with no formal explanation, thus victimizing them once again.

In order to balance the rights of all parties, I am recommending the following: First, the Parole Board must adopt more stringent rules for adjournment of parole hearings. Certainly the inmate's status report meeting is the most appropriate time to request an adjournment, thus eliminating the possibility of favorable "Parole Commissioner shopping" to obtain parole. Secondly, if a "legitimate" reason exists after the status report meeting, the convict should be required to appear before the commissioners on the originally scheduled date and state the reason on the record allowing the sitting commissioners to determine the legitimacy of the requested adjournment. Lastly, a notification must be made to family members/victims setting forth as to why the adjournment was requested and granted.

In sum, it is clearly unfair for the slain officer's family and inconsistent with principles of justice for this adjournment charade to continue. This organization remains committed to never forgetting our members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and on their behalf I urge you to correct this injustice immediately.

I await your response on this matter.

Very truly yours,



Patrick J. Lynch
President