

Louisiana CURE

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2020

Participating (16): Checo Yancy, Kelly Garrett, Jay Jackson, Kristen Antoine-Morse, Dan Krutz, Marianne Fisher Giolando, Shametria Gonzales, Betty Carter, Michael Naquin, Carolyn Washington, Trent Garrett, Carmonesia Hill, Patricia Smith, Lori Halvorson, Chester Self, Kristel Neupert

Vice President Kelly Garrett opened the meeting and explained the “safe space” in-house rule of confidentiality with regards to names that may be mentioned during the meeting and then asked everyone participating to introduce themselves.

Kelly asked Jay Jackson to talk about the Louisiana CURE website (www.louisianacure.org). Jay mentioned that our website has had approximately 40 unique visitors during the last 28 days and that half are Louisiana residents. Younger people are visiting the site more than the 50+ age bracket and that 55% of viewers are male and 45% are female. These statistics are from Google Analytics, which are provided for our website.

Kelly spoke about the Pardon and Parole hearings and how convenient it is for the general public to watch the hearings live on YouTube. She suggested that people visit the DOC (Department of Corrections) website to find out more. Kelly talked about a law that was changed that allowed someone to be eligible for a hearing after 15 years from the time of arrest.

Checo Yancy gave an update on operations at the prisons. Still no visitors, but some church services led by inmate ministers and staff chaplains are beginning, both indoor and outdoor services. Checo also mentioned that the legislature was working to amend a bill to clarify its intent on juvenile parole eligibility (HB 1).

Rev. Dan Krutz asked about a bill filed by Rep. Lance Harris... (HB38 in 2nd Special Session)

Michael Naquin asked about the amount of time between filing for a parole hearing and actually getting a hearing.

Shametria Gonzales was asking about the number of bills a legislator can introduce during the upcoming session. Former Representative Pat Smith explained that in a “regular non-fiscal” session the number of bills being introduced is not limited. In a regular “fiscal” session, there is no limit on fiscal related bills and only 5 non-fiscal bills are allowed.

Shametria also spoke about the Clean Slate Taskforce groups - relating to expungements. Checo offered to include more discussion about Clean Slate on the November agenda.

Kelly asked Checo to talk briefly about voter registration, the opportunity to vote and the census. Checo stressed the importance of exercising your right to vote. He also mentioned

that the census has been halted by the Supreme Court – citing it was too close to a federal election.

Kelly talked about inmates applying for stimulus checks and noted that the deadline has been extended to November 21, 2020. The DOC is supplying the application forms (go to their website) and this is being worked through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Checo mentioned that the Pardon & Parole Board has a new member. He is a former sheriff from Natchitoches, LA and replaces Keith Jones.

The meeting ended with a moment of silence and the next ZOOM meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay Jackson
Secretary