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ED GRAY, JR., *Member*  
MICHAEL KEELER, *Member*  
MAURICE SILVA, *Member*

NEVADA BOARD OF PAROLE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES  
of the meeting of the  
BOARD OF PAROLE COMMISSIONERS

April 22, 2014

The Board of Parole Commissioners held a public meeting on April 22, 2014 beginning at 4:00 pm at the following locations:

Conference room at the central office of the Board of Parole Commissioners, located at 1677 Old Hot Springs Road, Ste. A, Carson City, NV, video conference to Parole Board Office, 4000 S. Eastern Avenue, Ste. 130, Las Vegas, NV.

**I. Open Meeting, Call to order, roll call 4:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bisbee. Present in Carson City were Commissioner Endel, Commissioner Corda, and Commissioner Jackson. Present in Las Vegas were Commissioner Keeler, Chairman Bisbee, and Commissioner Gray. Commissioner Silva was not present.

Support staff in attendance:

Darla Foley, Executive Secretary

Members of the public present in Carson City included:

Claudia Stieber, Captain, Division of Parole and Probation

Michael Jensen, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Sandra Finelli, Applicant for modification of Life Sentence

Members of the public present in Las Vegas included:

Julie Kilber, Sergeant, Division of Parole and Probation

Dorothy Thomas, Applicant for modification of Life Sentence

**II. Public Comment. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken pursuant to subparagraph (2) of NRS 241.020.**

Chairman Bisbee asked any member of the public that would like to make comments regarding anything other than the items listed on the agenda to come forward and limit

their comments to 3 minutes. Chairman Bisbee reminded public that no action can be taken under this item.

Public comment – Carson City, NV

No public comment.

Public comment - Las Vegas

No public comment.

**III. For possible action: The Board will consider a recommendation by the Division of Parole and Probation to modify the sentence of the following parolees in accordance with subsection 2 of NRS 176.033:**

**1) Dorothy Thomas, NDOC # 31920**

**2) Sandra Finelli, NDOC # 23091**

**The Board may take no action, deny the request or accept the recommendation and act to petition the court of original jurisdiction to modify the sentence. Pursuant to subsection 5(c)(3) of NRS 241.020, all of the supporting documents are confidential and will not be provided to members of the public (see NRS 213.1075).**

Chairman Bisbee provided detailed instructions regarding this item number and introduced Parolee Dorothy Thomas, NDOC # 31920.

Chairman Bisbee went over the Notice of Hearing with Ms. Thomas. Ms. Thomas acknowledged her Notice of Hearing.

The Parole Board introduced themselves to Ms. Thomas.

Chairman Bisbee spoke about the packet from Parole and Probations that recommends that Ms. Thomas be granted release from life parole. Chairmen Bisbee also acknowledged the letters that Ms. Thomas provided involving her community service.

Chairmen Bisbee called the division of Parole and Probation to ask them to make their statements as to whether or not Parole and Probation supports this petition.

Sergeant Julie Kilber from Parole and Probation went over a report completed by Lieutenant Combs. The report from Lieutenant Combs recommends that the petition goes forward. Sergeant Kilber states that Ms. Thomas has been in complete compliance with Parole and Probation and that Ms. Thomas has numerous health issues.

Chairmen Bisbee opened the floor to questions.

Commissioner Corda had a question about Ms. Finelli's health issues and if they were a result of a car accident.

Sergeant Kilber acknowledged that some of the health issues were a result of a car accident, but also acknowledged that Ms. Thomas had issues prior to the accident but cannot discuss them on record.

Commissioner Corda asked if the injuries from the car accident have kept her from any employment. And if it was at that point that Ms. Thomas could not work.

Sergeant Kilber acknowledged that Ms. Thomas did have injuries as a result of a car accident. She also stated that at that point Parole and Probation assisted Ms. Thomas with applying for disability and Ms. Thomas was able to receive disability as a result of her injuries. Ms. Thomas is on a very limited budget.

Commissioner Jackson wanted it on the record that Ms. Thomas was residing with her daughter in Las Vegas.

Sergeant Kilber acknowledged that Ms. Thomas was residing with her daughter.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there was any idea where Ms. Thomas's son was and if he has remained trouble free.

Sergeant Kilber stated that there was no recent contact with the probation officer for Ms. Thomas's son. It was unknown if he was still residing with her. During the last home contact Officer Mehalko conducted earlier this month it appeared that it was just Ms. Thomas's daughter residing there. Chairman Bisbee noted that there would be a chance to ask Ms. Thomas.

Chairman Bisbee asked to go off the record to discuss Ms. Thomas's medical record.

Deputy AG Michael Jensen stated that due to the open meeting law, a closed session is not allowed without being on the agenda. The meeting remained open.

Ms. Thomas is called back to the podium. Chairman Bisbee inquired why Ms. Thomas is making the request for Modification of Sentence. Ms. Thomas explained that she knows that she is done with the criminal part of her life. She has had a change of life goals and now likes to give back to the community and has focused on more positive aspects of her life.

Chairman Bisbee inquired about Ms. Thomas's previous drug and alcohol use, Ms. Thomas stated that she never used either substance. Chairman Bisbee inquired as to why Ms. Thomas would like to be off parole. Ms. Thomas stated that she still feels locked up because she is still serving time. She states that she has missed her children growing up and would like to be finished serving her time on this sentence as she is done with criminal activity.

Commissioner Corda asked Ms. Thomas about her statement that she "never used drugs or alcohol". He asked if she realized her "Not Guilty" plea would lead her to the events that have occurred in her life. She stated no. She stated that she is a fighter and will not give up.

Commissioner Gray asked why Ms. Thomas chose to have a jury trial. She stated that under the advice from different people she felt that she would receive a lighter sentence if she took it to trial. They discussed her sentence which was 25 to life.

Chairman Bisbee reminded the Board that Ms. Thomas saw the Pardons Board in 2000 and her sentence was reduced to 10 to life which made her immediately eligible for parole at that time.

Commissioner Jackson asked Ms. Thomas about her previous drug related arrests and convictions and hopes that Ms. Thomas is done with her criminal activity. Ms. Thomas states she is done. She also stated that at the time, she felt she was selling drugs to help raise her kids but now realizes it was her choice and she could have considered other options. Commissioner Jackson commended Ms. Thomas about her success on parole.

Chairman Bisbee asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

Motion: To grant parolee's request of release of lifetime parole and forward the Board's recommendation and petition the court of original jurisdiction to modify sentence.

Made by: Commissioner Keeler

Seconded by: Commissioner Gray

Votes in Favor: Gray, Keeler, Bisbee, Endel, Jackson, and Corda

Votes Opposed: None

Hearing for Ms. Thomas was concluded.

Chairman Bisbee introduced Parolee Sandra Finelli, NDOC # 23091.

Chairman Bisbee explained the hearing process to Ms. Finelli and invited Captain Claudia Stieber of the Division of Parole and Probation to step to the podium and give Parole and Probations recommendation and to answer any questions the Board may have.

Captain Seiber stated that Ms. Finelli has been on parole for nearly 21 years and clean and sober for over 16 years. She is employed as the Director of a transitional center. She resides in Reno. Captain Seiber confirmed retired Chief Bernie Curtis's recommendation for release from her parole.

Chairman Bisbee asked if there has been any victim involvement or contact in the case. Captain Seiber stated that there hasn't been any that she is aware of. Chairman Bisbee asked if there were any other questions from the Board, there were none, Captain Seiber was dismissed.

Chairman Bisbee called Ms. Finelli back up to the podium. She inquired about the crime, Ms. Finelli's involvement and how it would affect her life if she was released from her sentence. Ms. Finelli stated that today she is nothing like the girl who committed that crime. She is now involved with her career and in trying to help other people who are on parole and need guidance. She understands that she can never take back the pain she has caused. She also explained that she is now living totally substance and alcohol free.

She is requesting a release from parole so she can have the freedom to do what she wants to do.

Commissioner Bisbee asked about the crime and what the ultimate goal was for the crime committed. Ms. Finelli stated that it was never their intent to harm her any more than they did; they just wanted to rob her to get money for drugs.

Commissioner Corda inquired about Ms. Finelli Codefendant and what their relationship was. Ms. Finelli said he was just an acquaintance who would supply her with drugs. Commissioner Corda also asked her about how she feels about the victim in the crime. Ms. Finelli stated she would like the victim to realize how sorry she was for the crime and hopes that living a criminal free life will show that she is remorseful.

Commissioner Jackson asked Ms. Finelli about what time in her life did she decide to make changes to improve. Ms. Finelli stated that she started to change the minute she went to prison and decided to educate herself. While on parole she secured a job with The Ridgehouse and has worked in that field ever since her release on parole. Commissioner Jackson commended Ms. Finelli on her 21 years in compliance while on parole.

Chairman Bisbee inquired if Ms. Finelli has ever attempted to locate or get any information on the victim of the crime via the internet to find out about her well being. Ms. Finelli stated that she has not because she doesn't feel she has the right to involve herself with the victim and cause her any more fear.

Chairman Bisbee asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

Motion: To grant parolee's request of release of lifetime parole and forward the Board's recommendation and petition to the court of original jurisdiction to modify sentence.

Made by: Commissioner Corda

Seconded by: Commissioner Jackson

Votes in Favor: Gray, Keeler, Bisbee, Endel, Jackson, and Corda

Votes Opposed: None

Chairman Bisbee discussed the process of petitioning the court for her release.

Ms. Finelli stated her appreciation to the Board.

**IV. Public Comment. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken pursuant to subparagraph (2) of NRS 241.020.**

Chairman Bisbee asked any member of the public that would like to make comments regarding anything other than the items listed on the agenda to come forward and limit

their comments to 3 minutes. Chairman Bisbee reminded public that no action can be taken under this item.

Public comment – Carson City, NV

No public comment.

Public comment - Las Vegas

No public comment.

**V. For possible action: The Board may act to adjourn the meeting.**

Motion: To adjourn the meeting of April 22, 2014

Made by: Commissioner Gray

Seconded by: Commissioner Corda

Votes in Favor: Gray, Keeler, Bisbee, Endel, Jackson, Corda

Votes Opposed: None

**Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.**