

Conference Call Notes
July 12, 2004
Re: Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)

Participants

DOC

Dinah Moore
Heidi Washington
Pat Caruso, Director
Joan Yukins (sp?), Deputy Director

Governor's Office

Teresa Bingman
Lisa Webb Sharpe
Justin Ross
Carrie Lewand
Brian Lynch
Dana Powers

U.S. Attorney's Office

Pam Johnson

Currently

Offender Meetings

These are informational sessions to inform offenders about the laws under PSN and community services that are available to them.

- Currently happening in Inkster, Highland Park, and Detroit.
- One time attendance is mandatory for parolees but not mandatory for probationers.
- Attendees are usually representatives from Wayne Co. Prosecutor's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, DPD, DOC, and ATF.
- Occur about once every 6 months.
- Time and resource intensive as metal detectors and security are required.
- One idea is to expand these meetings to the west side of the State. Tom Gazan is Pam Johnson's counterpart in the Western District office.

Information Sharing

Currently the E.D. of Penn. uses a *pre-release video* to inform offenders of the consequences of a parole violation. It highlights the "hard time for gun crime" initiative.

PSN issued a 2 page information letter for parole and probation officers regarding the federal firearm penalties.

Current Law under PSN

Currently a parole violator in possession of a gun may be prosecuted under federal law and returned to prison to finish the remainder of his or her sentence (or serve the time given for violation). The State and Federal time would be served consecutively.

Currently there are three tracks for referrals of parole violators to the feds under PSN in the E.D. of Mich.:

- 1) Track 1 – If federal guidelines call for 60 months, it's an automatic referral to the U.S. Attorney
- 2) Track 2 – 35 to 59 months. Wayne Co. offers a 2 year plea, if denied then the individual goes over to the feds.

- a. Anyone on parole caught with possession or use of a firearm may fall into this track 2
- 3) Track 3 – Less than 35 months goes to Wayne Co. Prosecutor

Research

Dr. Tim Bynum, a professor at MSU conducted research on firearms in the 8th precinct. He focused on how to reduce gun crime by parolees. His data showed that enhanced surveillance (increase home visits, check-ins) resulted in less violations.

Statistics

Since March of 2002 there have been a total of 403 referrals to PSN from Wayne Co. There have been 97 in 2004 so far. That's about 90% of the total referrals. Other referrals are coming from Jackson, Oakland, Macomb, Genesee, and Saginaw.

Ideas to be Implemented

- We would like the Governor to speak to the Circuit Court Judges to encourage full participation in issuing maximum penalties for violation of parole/probation due to possession of firearms
 - During these meetings, DOC would like the Governor to recommend that the judges make the Offender Meetings mandatory for probationers.
- The Governor should meet with the federal judges to ensure willingness to take on the increased case load.
- Pam Johnson at U.S. Attorney's Office will clarify "possession of a firearm" and whether a parolee may be prosecuted under federal law when a gun is found in the same dwelling or vehicle as that parolee. She will get this information ASAP.
- DOC will develop boilerplate language augmented by aggravated circumstances for agents to use in court.
- DOC will work on producing a pre-release informational video for parolees.
- DOC is researching how the new guidelines/increased caseload will effect the department. That information will hopefully be ready by 3pm today.
- DOC will ensure that there is a handout to be given to parolees that discusses the federal law. This handout should also go to parolees' homes and loved ones.
- The City needs to be contacted regarding expansion of the Offender's Meetings.
- DOC will ensure the continued distribution of the 2 page letter to parole officers re: possession of firearms.
- DOC will refer all eligible parole violators for federal prosecution under PSN.

Follow-up Call with DOC

Out of 1,096 parole and probation agents in the state, 336 are in Detroit. There are 715 outside the State. The case load distribution matches the agent distribution.

There are...

- 57,000 Probationers in the State of Michigan
- 17,200 Probationers in Wayne Co.
- 17,000 Parolees in the State of Michigan
- 6,392 Parolees in Wayne Co.