

Criminal Justice Task Force Zoom Meeting Monday, August 9, 2021



Submitted by Laurie Mahoney

NOTE: Action items and agreements are in RED

ATTENDING: Brigit Hurley, Ellie Stauffer, Dr. Gayle Harrison, Kanza & Keyvin Chatman, Jonathan Nwagbaraocha, Laurie Mahoney, Ralph Carter.

ACTIONS SUMMARY PER BELOW MINUTES - Dr Gayle:

1. Ellie Stauffer- to invite Kim Smith of VOCAL NY to speak to the JSTF of our member organizations- 15min talk/ 10min Q&A at our Sept 13 meeting
2. Brigit Hurley-to invite the sponsors of the Elder Parole & Fair Parole bills to our next meeting on September 13 - 30 min talk/ 15 min Q&A
3. Jonathan Nwagbaraocha- JSTF Issues Tracker; to make tracking chart of the bills we are supporting- Elder Parole, Fair Parole bills & Daniels Law- send out before Sept meeting
4. Ellie Stauffer- present the issues of the parole bills & Daniels Law to the Leadership Assembly in October
5. Brigit Hurley - to present on minimum age of arrest for children which is 7 y.o.!!! at October meeting
6. The RocACTS JSTF is officially in support of the Elder Parole & Fair Parole bills, Daniels Law, & Kevyn Chatman
7. Mr. Chatman - may ask therapist for release of info to: Gayle Harrison, PhD; RocACTS Board President; Kanza Chatman- to update Kathleen FitzPatrick's letter to be put on RocACTS letterhead
8. Jonathan Nwagbaraocha & Brigit Hurley- may support each other with bill tracking resources; JSTF has a shared Google Drive & TCA has legislative research access
9. Dr. Gayle- may be inspired! to write a position paper on the parole topics supported by the JSTF

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Dr. Gayle.

Opening Prayer - Ellie Stauffer offered a Franciscan blessing.

Dr Gayle checked in with each attendee.

Elder Parole – Laurie Mahoney provided an overview of a recent meeting hosted by Stanley Martin and <https://www.parolejusticenyc.com/> Elder Parole S.15A/A. 3475A and the Fair & Timely Parole act S.1415A/A.4231A. (Meeting notes are at the bottom of these minutes.)

- Discussed supporting the activities with our membership and reach, our platform, and Leadership Assembly
- **ACTION:** Ellie suggested Kim Smith, leader of VOCAL-NY to present to our task force in September, including a 45-minute presentation on both parole bills
- **ACTION:** Laurie will follow up a potential pre-release viewing by RocACTS of video
- **Agreed JSTF will support this effort.**

Update on Mr. Chatman's status – Kanza Chatman

- court date postponed to Oct 2021
- judge's ruling still pending
- focused on updating Mr. Chatman's medical, educational, employment files including accomplishments and additional letters of personal observations, including RocACTS' letter

- Ann Berger, attorney, advised it comes down to the judge's ruling.

Representative for JSTF on the Steering Committee - Ellie Stauffer

Leadership Assembly date is firm: October 7, 2021 (via zoom)

NY State Bills to support/follow:

Senate Bill 4434- to remove 'discipline' from collective bargaining

House bill A1278- in Civil Service law to support S4434

Civil Service law 75 to terminate officers for cause

Daniel's Law (NYS)***

The Elder Parole and Fair & Timely Parole Acts

***JSTF affirmed that we are in support of Daniel's Law. ACTION: A letter in support can be written, (and our web site can reflect this).

ACTION: Jonathan N is creating a spreadsheet to track the issues listed below; Brigit Hurley will support Jonathan with her access to a portal that shows status and updates on NYS bills.

And, JN will also report back soon on Elders & Allies.

ACTION: Brigit will bring a couple juvenile justice bills to the next meeting.

Federal Bills to support/follow:

HR1 / S1 For the People Act of 2021

HR 4 John Lewis Voter Restoration Act

HR 7120 George Floyd Policing Act of 2020

HR 55 Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act

A few Member Organization updates were shared.

RocACTS Ice Cream Social is Sunday, Aug 29, 2021 @ St James Church, Brett Rd.

ACTION ALL: Extend the invitation to each of our organizations.

Evaluation of meeting - on time, valuable, encouraging, action-focused, inspiring.

Closing prayer was offered by Laurie.

The meeting was adjourned by Dr Gayle at 7:12 pm.

Next meeting: September 13, 2021 6pm

Here are my notes ---

The meeting was highly productive. Brainstormed ways to collaborate among ROC's grassroots organizations. JSTF should/could consider rallying around these campaigns --

Primary objective of all campaigns is to get 2 critical bills passed to prevent deaths behind bars:

<https://www.parolejusticenyc.com/>

Fair and Timely Parole

-
- **Elder Parole** - Elder early release - over 55 years old with +15 yrs incarceration, can get an individual parole hearing based on their accomplishments while incarcerated.

We brainstormed on:

(1) A series of 4 live "town halls" (zoom as bacup)

1. Faith & Redemption, centering the voices of faith leaders and people deserving second chances
2. Centering the voices of victims and survivors and them not wanting perpetual punishment for those who harmed them
3. Centering the voices of violence interrupters and public safety and how bringing our elders home increases public safety
4. Parole survivors who've contributed to community since release.

RocACTS can bring in members, JSTF, Clergy.

(2) Knock on doors - date and flyer coming

Especially to target constituents of Brouk and Harry Bronson who've not yet fully supported these bills.

(3) Great organizing tool - Will be a screening in ROC date tbd.

The Interview (22 mins) - advocacy video (Oprah involved)

(Can also do individual screenings - cannot be shared on social media yet as pre-release.)

Discussed who to invite - RocACTS can bring congregations, clergy, etc.

It is Important to invite Sandra Doorley who opposes both bills, and especially Whites should be represented as Sandra is White.

(4) Meeting with Rev Myra - who can reach out to Doorley.

(5) Certificates of accomplishment for Parolees :)

NEXT STEPS:

- **Town Halls - organizing asap for earliest 1st town hall Sept 2021**
- **Knock on doors - to start after 8/19/2021**

L A Mahoney