

# THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW

SERVING THE CITIZENS OF FLORIDA SINCE 1941

Monthly Accomplishments Report **October 2024** 

# Chairman's Message

David A. Wyant

During the month of October, the Commission held its regularly scheduled parole and conditional medical release hearings in person in Tallahassee and via teleconference. The out-of-town hearings were canceled in Polk County and moved to central office due to Hurricane Milton. In addition, the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) was activated for the Tampa, Arcadia, Ocala, Melbourne, and Stuart Offices in preparation for Hurricane Milton.

Furthermore, the Commission's Legislative Budget Request (LBR) was submitted, and I met with each cabinet agency to provide an overview of the LBR. The Commission also held the Annual Business Meeting where agency employees were recognized with awards for their service and commitment.

Detailed information about our accomplishments can be found on the following pages. If you have questions, please email <u>publicaffairs@fcor.state.fl.us</u> or call 850-921-2816.

Sincerely,

Janiel a. Wyant

Chairman

## **Division of Operations**

The Division of Operations is the largest unit of the Commission and is comprised of four sections: The Revocations Unit, Victims' Services, Office of the Commission Clerk, and Field Services. Twelve field offices are divided among five regional areas across the state with each region staffed by an administrator who directs the day-to-day activities of the professionals and support staff assigned to offices located within the region.

Operations is responsible for multiple functions in the administration of post-prison supervisory release programs. These supervised release programs include parole, conditional medical release, control release, conditional release, and addiction recovery release supervision. Through its Field Services staff, Operations conducts parole interviews, administrative hearings for alleged violations of supervision, as well as clemency investigations for the Board of Executive Clemency.

## Accomplishments: October 2024

#### Office of the Commission Clerk

Cases Docketed: 834

- Parole Interviews, Reviews (89), Granted (5), Terminated (3), Released to Guidelines (0), Declined to authorize (1), Rescinded/Re-paroled (0)
- Conditional Medical Release Granted (1), Denied (1), Docketed (2)
- Conditional Release cases scheduled for Docket (624)
- Addiction Recovery cases scheduled for Docket (108)

#### **Revocations**

Revocations: 590

- Warrants Issued (166)
- Revocations Scheduled for Docket (151)
- Final Hearing Results Received, ROR granted, denied (124)
- Revoked or reinstated, including ROR, NTA (149)

\*Includes parole, conditional release, addiction recovery release, and conditional medical release and control release cases.

#### Victims' Services

Victims' Services: 796

- Victims' requests for information on parole, conditional medical release, conditional release, addiction recovery and clemency cases-166
- Victims Located-284
- Status updates to victims on Parole, Conditional Medical Release, Conditional Release, Addiction Recovery, and clemency cases-197
- Assisted Victims who attended parole hearings in person or remotely- 21
- Notified Sate Attorney Offices of upcoming hearings and outcomes of completed hearings-126
- Supervisor and Commission Investigator attended a recruiting event for Student Interns at Florida State University-1
- Selected an OPS Staff Assistant for hire-1

#### **Field Services**

Field Services: 264

- Parole Interviews (46)
- Revocation Interviews (171)
- Revocation Hearings (47)

## Division of Administration

The Division of Administration provides administrative support to the Commission's Central Office and 12 field offices. Administration includes Human Resources, Finance and Accounting, Purchasing, Safety, Grants, Contracts, Inventory, Emergency Management, and General Services.

#### Accomplishments: October 2024

- Submitted 55 requisitions, 26 security access requests, 5 work orders, 1 delivery, 58 processed invoices, 31 HR actions, 40 Travel forms.
- Attended Administration team meeting, FL Palm meetings, FL Palm and OIT meeting, FL Palm Change Management Leadership meetings, OBIS Change Management, FDC OIT meetings, Weekly FDC/KPMG PALM Support Status Touchpoint, IT TRP meetings.
- Prepared for COOP Activation by issuing hotspots & assisting employees with COOP readiness.
- Ordering supplies, IT and furniture including research and obtaining up to date quotes.
- Successfully completed reclassification and onboarded new Policy and Compliance position.
- Continued lease negotiations for regional office.
- Completed various fleet management actions.
- Responded to various requests for the PALM project, providing feedback and participating in multiple trainings, and participated in PALM Design Workshops.
- Continued facilitation of 5 Commission IT projects with FDC and various vendors to implement new applications as part of the TRP.
- Completed agency response to Auditor General audit.
- Assisted General Counsel and Operations in initiating rulemaking.

## Office of General Counsel

The Office of the General Counsel is charged with successfully prevailing on litigation filed against the Commission, providing quality legal advice and representation in a prompt manner, and engaging in proactive legal counseling to prevent unnecessary litigation in the future.

## Accomplishments: October 2024

During the month of October, the Office of the General Counsel generated twenty-five (25) court filings, including briefs, responses, motions, orders, and notices.

#### Monthly Accomplishments Report

During the month of October, the Office of the General Counsel responded, through completion, to sixty-eight (68) public records requests.

During the month of October, the Commission received sixteen (16) positive orders, from state circuit courts, district courts of appeal, the Florida Supreme Court, and federal courts. These orders are in the nature of reaffirming long-held and long-standing precedent governing some of the more common challenges presented against the Commission, including the denial of a grant of credit for time out on supervision after a supervision revocation, the recommendation for particular programming, the placement of an offender on conditional release, the Commission's discretionary authority to impose special conditions in a conditional release order, the Commission's denial of a grant for a special interview, the sufficiency of the evidence presented at revocation hearings, and the Commission's decision to aggravate for unsatisfactory institutional conduct and its decision not to mitigate based on particular information set forth by an inmate.

# Office of External Affairs

The Office of External Affairs is charged with overseeing the Commission's legislative, communications, and public information programs. The Director serves as the agency's chief legislative advocate and chief spokesperson.

#### Accomplishments: October 2024

- Conducted legislative constituent relations regarding various Commission functions.
- Budget submitted the 2025-26 LBR to the online portal.
- Sent out cancellation notices for the out of town vote in Polk County as a result of Hurricane Milton.
- Worked on the business meeting report.

## Office of Executive Clemency

The Office of Executive Clemency (OEC) reports directly to the Governor and Cabinet who sit as the Executive Clemency Board (Clemency Board) in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. This office is responsible for coordinating all clemency meetings, presenting all applicants to the Clemency Board, accepting clemency applications, referring applications for investigation, and serves as the official custodian of all clemency records.

## Accomplishments: October 2024

Currently 378,978 RCR certificates are available for printing and can be searched on our website: <u>www.fcor.state.fl.us</u> under the clemency tab.

The main goal of the Office of Executive Clemency (OEC) is to support the Executive Clemency Board (Clemency Board). OEC staff also provides assistance to the public regarding the clemency process, applications and historical records.

OEC maintains multiple phone lines and a web email accounts that are staffed daily to answer inquiries.

#### Monthly Accomplishments Report

OEC receives and processes clemency applications and notifies the applicants of their eligibility for the different forms of clemency. Correspondence is provided to the applicants explaining the next steps in the process and advising of any additional information that is needed to move their application forward. OEC informs applicants of the final Clemency Board action along with the various forms of denials and grants.

OEC is the custodian of all clemency records and processed over 350 requests received from criminal justice agencies regarding clemency action on individuals being investigated and/or prosecuted. OEC further assisted in responding to clemency records request, legal inquiries and legislative inquiries.

OEC worked closely with the Clemency Board in the presentation and circulation of preliminary review list for RCR Without a Hearing, RFR/Commutation of Sentence and Unfavorable Commission Recommendations for With a Hearing cases as well as applicants who will appear on a clemency agenda. Specific cases requested by the Executive Office of the Governor were also submitted for review and subsequent determinations were made.

## **Webpage Statistics**

- <u>https://FCOR.state.fl.us</u> has received 91,941,914 inquiries with 6,279,946 searches for Restoration of Civil Rights (RCR) grants.
- 1,276,610 names were located, and 137,001 certificates have been printed.

# Office of Clemency Investigations

The Office of Clemency Investigations is charged with investigating, reviewing, evaluating, and reporting to the Clemency Board in all types of clemency cases including, but not limited to, the restoration of civil rights, full pardons, firearm authority, commutations of sentence, remission of fines, and capital punishment cases.

## Accomplishments: October 2024

- Conducted investigations on Restoration of Civil Rights Without a Hearing cases.
- Conducted investigations on Requests for Review for Commutation of Sentence cases.
- Prepared investigations completed by field offices for Commissioners' review and conducted quality assurance reviews of With Hearing investigations for upcoming Clemency Board Meetings.
- Conducted eligibility reviews on pending applications under the criteria of the Rules of Executive Clemency.
- Conducted multiple clemency training sessions with investigators in our section.
- Provided assistance and support related to eligibility determinations and clemency investigation procedures to Field Services staff.

#### Monthly Accomplishments Report

- Assisted applicants through reinstatement of their clemency applications after verification of satisfaction of certain eligibility requirements.
- Completed and presented section report at annual Business Meeting.
- Worked with Department of Corrections IT members and Commission staff on the ongoing implementation of improved features and functionality to the clemency and PBB databases and other agency databases.
- Provided oversight and direction regarding agency records retention, storage, and disposition in accordance with approved retention schedules.
- Provided ad hoc investigation, research, assistance, and other information to the various clemency aides upon specific requests.
- Assisted in responses to public records requests, legislative inquiries, and in other responses for clemency information and data requests.
- Provided customer service to clemency applicants.
- Scanned historical records into the clemency database.