



®

Probation Association of New Jersey

Serving New Jersey Since 1904

An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

United Professional Center, Building Two
617 Union Avenue, Brielle, NJ 08730
Phone (732) 223-1799 Fax (732) 223-8363
Website: www.panj.org

John C. Morton, MPA
Business Manager

Officials

George P. Christie
President

Peter Tortoreto
First Vice President

Stephanie Hennessey
Second Vice President

Cornelius Elsasser
VP, Supervisor's Unit

Dorothy Robinson
Northern Regional VP

Kevin Farley
Central Regional VP

Dwight Covalleskie
Southern Regional VP

David Yennior, Northern
Reg. VP, Supervisor's Unit

Gavin Cummings, Central
Reg. VP, Supervisor's Unit

Bradley Fairchild, Southern
Reg. VP, Supervisor's Unit

Stuart Martinsen
Recording Secretary

Susan Ormsby-Cuozzo
Financial Secretary

Ann Rizzi
Treasurer

Thea Condry
Parliamentarian

Kristi Drummond
Sergeant-at-Arms

Regional Representatives

Region 1

Anthony Persico, Hudson
G. Anne Dutton, Morris
Daniel M. Bergin, Passaic

Region 2

Steve Wainwright, Middlesex
Edda Burry, AOC
John Morton, Monmouth

Region 3

A. Francis Nunan, Cape May
Glen Moton, Camden
Lionel Maldonado, Camden

July 10, 2007

The Star-Ledger
John Jurich, Editorial Page Editor
1 Star Ledger Plaza
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Editor,

The Star-Ledger article on July 4 entitled "N.J. checks online habit of 80 sex offenders" speaks volumes to the ever-increasing danger of probation and parole sex offenders via social networks like MySpace.com. For unsuspecting victims MySpace.com became a hunting ground for an estimated 11,000 registered sex offenders.

Of the 141 sex offenders using MySpace and reviewed by the attorney general's office, 43 were on parole, and 37 were on probation. These predators are equally dangerous and have a growing appetite for crime regardless of being on probation or parole.

In many cases, probationers would be incarcerated and then on parole if it were not for plea bargaining agreements that granted offenders probation. For this reason, the state should transfer probation to the Parole Board to strengthen the community supervision system and tracking equally dangerous offenders.

Although streamlining state agencies cannot remove the desire and lust for crime from an offender, it can ease the inequities created by having probation and parole services in two separate branches of government. For instance, we can better coordinate the apprehension of those predators looming on websites such as Myspace.com. When the safety of our children is concerned, we need to better protect them from sex offenders. Coordination of the probation and parole system under one agency is a way to do that.

Sincerely,

George P. Christie, President
The Probation Association of New Jersey