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## Probation Association of New Jersey

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*An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association*

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To: PANJ Members

From: George P. Christie (President)

Date: July 14, 2006

Re: State Shutdown

I know that most of you were ordered to stay at home during the week of July 3<sup>rd</sup> and it was unclear whether or not you would receive any compensation. This question was answered already and I am happy to say that everyone will be paid their full salary.

There were others of you who were ordered to work on Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> because you were considered essential and the question was whether or not you would receive extra compensation for those duties. While the AOC has not yet responded it would appear clear to me that all those essential people represented by PANJ should receive compensation over and above their regular salary. I will be visiting this issue with members of the legal committee if people are not compensated.

There was a third issue involving people who were on vacation leave during the shutdown and whether or not those vacation days would be returned to them. The AOC has not yet responded to this and we will be following up with the administration.

During the week of the shutdown, I met daily with members of the PANJ Executive Board and other local officials. PANJ was present at two rallies in Trenton, we spoke with legislators, we sent messages to the Governor's Office and we spoke with the media.

We made every attempt to insure that you all would be paid despite the objections of some of our state legislators. We also objected to the judiciary declaring that our jobs were not critical or essential. We urged our legislators to work with the Governor to get the budget passed so that we could get some order back into our lives.

I want to thank those PANJ representatives who worked with me to support the Governor and join with the larger state unions in getting New Jersey back to work.

I also want to thank all of you for being patient knowing that your PANJ leaders would be in Trenton fighting for you.