



FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION

4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2450

TENA M. PATE
Commissioner/Chair

MONICA DAVID
Commissioner/Vice-Chair

BERNARD R. COHEN, SR.
Commissioner/Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor and Cabinet Tap Pate to Head Parole Commission for Second Term as Chair

~Cohen Selected as Vice Chair~

Tallahassee – June 26 - **Tena M. Pate** of Tallahassee was reappointed to serve a second two-year term as the Florida Parole Commission's Chair and agency head by a unanimous vote of the Governor and Cabinet made during today's Cabinet meeting. Additionally, in other actions made regarding the Commission, the Governor and Cabinet designated Commissioner Bernard R. Cohen, Sr. to serve as the Commission's Vice Chair.

In accepting the reappointment as Commission Chair, Pate stated: "I am again honored and humbled by the faith and trust placed in me by Governor Scott and members of the Cabinet. I am committed to increasing communication between the Parole Commission and the leaders of our state in an effort to better serve all." She continued, "Today, the 121 employees of the Florida Parole Commission are working hard to protect all of Florida's citizens through its informed decision making processes and practices, and, when appropriate, providing for the opportunity for the successful re-entry of offenders back into our society. Originally appointed by Governor Bush and the Cabinet, Pate has served on the Commission since 2003.

Prior to being appointed to the Commission, Pate served the citizens of this state as Florida's Victims' Rights Coordinator under Governors Chiles, MacKay, and Bush. In her role as a government official, Pate emphasizes that she is "committed to ensuring that Florida's government is responsive to its citizens," and strives to ensure this while serving on various committees. She is currently a member of the Florida Supreme Court's Florida Innocence Commission; Chair, Victims Committee, Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI); the Attorney General's Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team; the Leon County Child Abuse Death Review Team. She is a member of Class XXX of Leadership Florida and is the recipient of both the statewide and local chapter awards for the 2011 *Distinguished Service Award in Criminal Justice* given by the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency. Additionally, she is an active member of her local church and volunteers with Leadership Florida, Chelsea's House (a program to aid at-risk women and children), and the Leon County Special Olympics.

In other actions Tuesday, the Governor and Cabinet appointed **Bernard R. Cohen, Sr.**, to serve as the Commission's Vice Chair. Appointed to the Commission on January 18, 2012, by Governor Scott and members of the Florida Cabinet, Commissioner Cohen served as Vice President, Corporate Administration, for the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation from February 2007 to April 2011. Prior to his tenure with the Citizens Group, he had retired from the Florida Department of Corrections after a 30-year career where he held many executive and management level positions.

In the final appointment to the Parole Commission made by the Governor and Cabinet Tuesday, Melinda Nisi Coonrod was selected Parole Commissioner to serve a six-year term beginning July 1, 2012, and expiring June 30, 2018. Coonrod will fill the vacancy created by the expiring term of Commissioner Monica David.

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