

PRESS RELEASE

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AFRICAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION, STATE LEGISLATORS AND CONNECTICUT PARDON TEAM SPEARHEAD STATEWIDE PUBLIC FORUMS ON PARDON PROCESS

**Organizations and elected officials provide public access to tools and information
to help change lives in Connecticut**

NORWICH, CT, DECEMBER 29, 2006: The African-American Affairs Commission, along with Connecticut State Legislators and the Connecticut Pardon Team, will hold a press conference on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 in room 1B of the Legislative Office Building at 2 p.m. to announce a series of informational forums throughout Connecticut in 2007 to spread the word about the state's non-inmate Pardon Process.

The Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc., organized in 2004, consists of Founder and Chairwoman Jacqueline Caron, certified Image Consultant Dianne M. Daniels, AICI, who

serves as the organization's Executive Director, Attorney Linda J. Sullivan, the team's legal advisor, and Richard A Caron, Sr., the team's treasurer. The team provides tools and information to help change the lives of individuals who:

- Were formerly convicted of a crime
- Who have successfully completed their parole and / or probation
- Who have remained conviction-free for at least 5 years
- Who have made significant steps toward rebuilding their lives and have taken positive action to rehabilitate themselves
- Who are taking a proactive role in giving back to their communities
- Who are setting an exceptional example for other convicted persons.

The team has conducted forums throughout Connecticut, including a forum in Waterbury that drew over 500 people and one in New Haven that was held in cooperation with State Senate Majority Leader Martin M. Looney, and was broadcast on NPR Radio.

“We are very grateful for the outpouring of support and interest from our elected representatives and community organizations” said Founder and Chairwoman Jacqueline Caron. “Many Connecticut legislators have come forward to request that forums be scheduled in their service areas for their constituents, including Representatives McCrory, Kirkley-Bey, Merrill and Green, and Senator Eric Coleman and Senator Donald J. DeFronzo. We have made great strides in a short amount of time, and it is partly due to support from people like Senator Toni Harp and Senator Edith Prague that we've come so far so quickly. We also have considerable support from people like Andrew Clark, who is the Administrator for the Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice at Central

Connecticut State University, where we were honored to take part in the 'Building Bridges II' conference in January 2006.”

Dianne M. Daniels, AICI, the Executive Director for the Connecticut Pardon Team, added that “We are very grateful to have had the support of the Department of Corrections and the Board of Pardons and Parole from the very beginning. With their continued assistance, as well as that of our legislators and community organizations, we are committed to bringing this life-changing information to as many Connecticut residents as possible during 2007. We look forward to working with our current and future community partners during 2007 to expand the Pardon Team’s programs to everyone that needs us.”

The team’s next scheduled public Pardon Forum will be held at the New Britain Public Library (20 High Street, New Britain) on February 22, 2007 in cooperation with State Senator Donald J. DeFronzo. Advance registration is strongly encouraged and can be performed on the team’s website, or by calling toll-free 1-866-251-3810.

For more information on the Connecticut Pardon Team and its members, visit their website at <http://www.connecticutpardonteam.com>.

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