

Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc

Providing Information and Tools to Help Change Lives

Phone 860-823-1571 Fax 860-425-0656 www.connecticutpardonteam.org

Testimony of Executive Director, Richard A. Caron, Sr. **Judiciary Committee**

The Connecticut Pardon Team, Inc. continues to maintain our office at 307 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Norwich, CT 06360, and we are the only organization in the State of Connecticut that is committed to assisting Connecticut ex-offenders in applying for a Full or Provisional pardon, and encouraging them to demonstrate the behaviors that increase the likelihood that their pardon application will be considered and approved by the Connecticut State Board of Pardons and Parole (State Pardon Board).

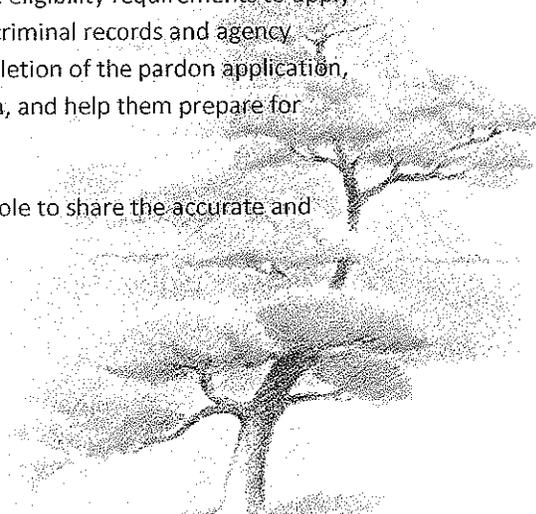
CPT is committed to working with anyone eligible for and intending to obtain a pardon. In addition to assisting clients with the pardon application and its processes, CPT counsels clients about the ways to strengthen their applications. They are encouraged to develop a positive lifestyle and address personal issues as a means of strengthening their applications. By following that advice, a pardon applicant will lead a productive life, fostering positive family and community relationships that will be beneficial to that individual and to the state, regardless of when, or even if, the State Pardon Board ultimately grants the individual a pardon.

The organization's mission is to provide tools and information to individuals who endeavor to improve their lives and who: (1) were formerly convicted of a crime; (2) have successfully completed their probation or parole; (3) have made significant steps toward rehabilitation and, (4) have taken a proactive role in giving back to their communities, and are setting an exceptional example for other ex-offenders.

For the last 3 quarters of our State Grant we have held a total of 23 informationals throughout the State of Connecticut, which 453 people attended, and we were able to sign up 105 people who are applying for the pardon process. There are many participants that we are still assisting from 2009, 2010, and 2011 who were denied on their first attempt to apply for their pardon.

In just the last 4 years, approximately 3163 individuals have participated in CPT informational forums and/or have received individual assistance in completing the pardon application and in preparing for a hearing before the State Pardon Board. Informational forums are conducted periodically throughout the state. They are intended to expand awareness of the pardon process, the eligibility requirements to apply for a pardon, and the services CPT provides. CPT assists individuals with criminal records and agency personnel who work with the ex-offenders. We also assist with the completion of the pardon application, counsel them about actions they should take to strengthen an application, and help them prepare for their appearance before the State Pardon Board if a hearing is granted.

Due to the Privacy Act it is very difficult for The Board of Pardons and Parole to share the accurate and complete results of the pardon decisions.



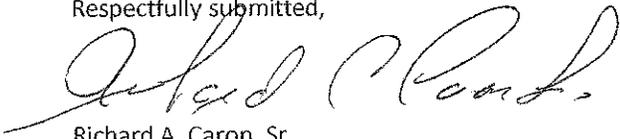
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I do believe that for the fiscal year 2013-2014, we will continue to do a minimum of 35 informationals and 500 participants throughout the state of Connecticut for educating them on the Pardon process. It is without a doubt imperative that we receive State funding in order to continue to serve the people and your constituents throughout the State of Connecticut. Attached please find our budget proposal for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard A. Caron, Sr.
Executive Director
RAC/Dew
Encl.



