



November 12, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

*****For Immediate Release*****

The annual public comments hearing of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. It will be held in the House of Delegates Office Building, Judiciary Committee Room (Room 100) at 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Members of the public are invited to address the Commission with their concerns about sentencing policy issues in Maryland. To accommodate all who wish to participate in the meeting, the Commission requests that each speaker limit his or her comments to five minutes. The Commission Chair will enforce this limit. All who are interested in speaking at the meeting are asked to confirm their plans for attendance and submit a written version of their testimony in advance at least three days prior to the meeting.

Please confirm your plan for attendance and send written testimony to David Soulé, Executive Director of the Commission, at dsoule@umd.edu.



THE MARYLAND STATE COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL SENTENCING POLICY

Establishment and Charge of the State Commission

The Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy (MSCCSP) in May 1999. In July 1999, the MSCCSP formally replaced its predecessor advisory commission, the Maryland Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy. The governing legislation for the MSCCSP, located in Subtitle 2 of Title 6 of the Criminal Procedure Article of the Code of Maryland (Statutes) sets out six legislative goals for sentencing in Maryland, expressing the General Assembly's intention that:

- (1) sentencing should be fair and proportional and that sentencing policies should reduce unwarranted disparity, including any racial disparity, in sentences for criminals who have committed similar crimes and have similar criminal histories;
- (2) sentencing policies should help citizens to understand how long a criminal will be confined;
- (3) sentencing policies should preserve meaningful judicial discretion and sufficient flexibility to allow individualized sentences;
- (4) sentencing guidelines be voluntary;
- (5) the priority for the capacity and use of correctional facilities should be the confinement of violent and career criminals; and
- (6) sentencing judges in the State should be able to impose the most appropriate criminal penalties, including corrections options programs for appropriate criminals.

The MSCCSP was designed and authorized with the purpose of fulfilling those legislative intentions.

MSCCSP Composition

The MSCCSP is composed of the 19 members listed on the next two pages. The Chair, the Honorable Brett R. Wilson was appointed by the Governor in September 2019.



Current Members of the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy

Members Appointed by the Governor

Chair

Honorable Brett R. Wilson

State's Attorney

Honorable Brian L. DeLeonardo

Criminal Defense Attorney

Richard A. Finci, Esquire

Victims' Advocacy Group

Margaret Knipe

Law Enforcement

Chief Douglas DeLeaver

Criminal Justice or Corrections Policy Expert

Brian D. Johnson, Ph.D.

Local Detention Center

Melinda C. Grenier

Public

William (Willy) E. Koutroumpis

Public

Lisa M. Spicknall-Horner

Members Appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland

Appellate Courts

Honorable James P. Salmon

Circuit Court

Honorable Shannon E. Avery

District Court

Honorable Patrice E. Lewis

Members Appointed by the President of the Senate

Senator

Honorable Robert G. Cassilly

Senator

Honorable Delores G. Kelley

Members Appointed by the Speaker of the House

Delegate

Honorable Luke H. Clippinger

Delegate

Honorable Charles E. Sydnor III

Ex-Officio Members

Attorney General

Honorable Brian E. Frosh

State Public Defender

Paul B. DeWolfe, Esquire

Secretary of Public Safety & Correctional Services

Robert L. Green