



HAS RHODE ISLAND BECOME THE “THROW AWAY STATE” ?

AN ARGUMENT FOR TOUGHER SENTENCING GUIDELINES

ALLIANCE OFFERS PART ONE OF A TWO PART STUDY

REGARDING DISCARDED HOMICIDE VICTIMS 2012- 2014

This year a murder sentencing bill will be presented for the third time to both the House and Senate Committees for passage into law. This bill while repeatedly amended and presented, S2036 version awaits introduction to the House for the year 2015. It should have better chances of passing than previous years. The Alliance for Safe Communities hope is that new leadership in positions of House Judiciary and House Speaker will be the catalyst for the change needed moving forward. The bill offers the leverage judges need to impose a sentence suitable to the serious and heinous nature of the crime, “homicide” .

The bill was originally introduced three years ago in response to many factors:

- 1) The increase in homicides over time.
- 2) Inmates receiving exorbitant good time credits for early release regardless of the heinous nature of their crime

3) Public following WPRI and the Alliance presenting the release of “ THRILL KILLER” Alfred Brissette after 13 years of a 40 year sentence to serve.

4) Efforts of the Brother Hood of Corrections who presented the “ End the Violence “ campaign highlighting several other repeat murderers receiving early release.

5) Compelling testimony from The Brother Hood of Corrections, Alliance for Safe Communities, and Attorney General’s Office, of Rhode Island.

Although the Senate has passed this bill for the last two years it has been met with strong opposition by the House Judiciary leadership, ACLU, and Public Defenders office of Rhode Island.

Normally the Alliance for Safe Communities testimony would highlight the most heinous of murders and emphasize the increase overall of this crime in our state during Committee session.

This year the Alliance will take a different approach than the past. The Alliance feels Rhode Island has seen some of the highest homicide rates in years for 2014 with over 21 in the capitol city alone. The common denominator that seems to be underlying many of these heinous murders statewide and adding to their depravity is a pattern of “Throwing Away Victim’s Bodies Like Trash”.

The Alliance will outline 9 such cases highlighted by news media in the last 3 years. The Alliance comes to one conclusion from this pattern: “IS RHODE ISLAND THE THROW AWAY STATE”?

The following are the order of victims since inception and introduction of this Bill:

1) Victim , Jeanette Descateux sentencing in 2012 of notorious “ Thrill Killer , Alfred Brissette” released after a bit more than 13 years of a 40 year sentence to serve . Alfred Brissette and his accomplice Marc Girard tortured and beat the body of Jeanette and then dumped her body into a shallow grave in Pulaski woods 1999. This crime warranted the inception of legislation to be introduced regarding review of sentencing guidelines as

well as 4 other cases highlighted by the Brother Hood of Correctional Officers Board, and their "END THE VIOLENCE" campaign.

- 2) Victim Shirley Goone Donnelly 2012, murdered at hands of Mathew Komrowski, she was tied up, beaten, strangled, and body dumped on a mattress and set fire. Komrowski three years later is still awaiting trial.
- 3) Victim Stacie Durego, 2012, brutally murdered by Donald Greenslit who then chopped her body parts up and attempted to burn them in a cellar oven while her small children slept upstairs in their room overcome with smoke inhalation.
- 4) Victim Mary Grier 2012, body found dismembered in a garbage bag dumped in a vacant garage, Serial rapist James Adams ended his violent rampage upon women, while on probation.
- 5) Victim Allison Taylor, 2013 mother of Robert Taylor, murdered by her son and dismembered, bagged, and dumped in a garbage dumpster. Last known residence at scene of crime for Robert Taylor was "OPEN DOORS RE-ENTRY PROGRAM".
- 6) Victim Gandy Kadea murdered 2013 body dumped and set on fire in Pocasset Cemetery Cranston.
- 7) Victim John Fay retired postal worker and avid jogger, brutally murdered in Button Woods Park 2013, stuffed into a garbage can. Unsolved case.
- 8) Victim identity held 2014, Mass. male stabbed to death and body dumped in Recycle bin outside Housing Unit in Providence.
- 9) Victim Aretha Beard, 2014 disabled veteran, mother, wife and sister murdered and body found dumped in Roger Williams Park. No leads, Unsolved case.

These are cases in review researched by the Alliance for Safe Communities among so many more. As we seemingly become numb to the violence of a homicide in this state, are we also becoming numb to the depravity in which these bodies are found "thrown away". I assure you that for the loved one's of these victims this cruel pattern has destroyed both lives and families. It is time to stop studying this bill and move forward to passage.

Next month we will look at the details of this bill more closely.

