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SECRETARY OF STATE

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

15-11

July 7, 2015

ESTABLISHING THE JUSTICE REINVESTMENT WORKING GROUP

WHEREAS, one of the most important responsibilities of government officials in the State of Rhode Island is to provide for the safety and security of the people; and

WHEREAS, operation of the criminal justice system is becoming increasingly costly, and mounting evidence indicates that many criminal justice policies and strategies are not working; and

WHEREAS, recent reports document troubling trends, including racial disparities in incarceration rates and arrests, incarceration rates in the United States that are the highest in the world, and probation rates and probation terms in Rhode Island that are among the highest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, our criminal justice system is inadequately equipped to handle the prevalence of people suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders, and we must examine diversionary strategies at the front door of the system that appropriately balance the imperative to protect both the health and safety of the public; and

WHEREAS, resources in our criminal justice system must continue to be deployed to combat the most serious crimes, but for less serious offenses we must thoughtfully evaluate whether we are smartly investing in strategies that break the cycle of crime and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the Rhode Island General Assembly and Judiciary signed a joint letter requesting assistance from the Council of State Governments Justice Center to gather data, evaluate processes and programs, and make recommendations on policies designed to save money while keeping the public safe, thus freeing up funds for reinvestment in strategies that improve public safety and public welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. There is hereby established The Justice Reinvestment Working Group (“Working Group”) that shall exist for the purpose of advising the Governor on ways to improve our criminal justice system with the overarching goals of protecting public safety, reducing recidivism, analyzing racial disparities, promoting stronger, healthier communities, and reducing costs.
2. The Working Group shall include the following members, or their designees, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor:
 - a. Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell
 - b. Superior Court Associate Justice Judith Colenback Savage (Ret.)
 - c. Superior Court Presiding Justice Alice Gibney
 - d. District Court Chief Judge Jeanne LaFazia
 - e. Superior Court Magistrate Judge John Flynn
 - f. Representative Marvin L. Abney
 - g. Representative Robert E. Craven, Sr.
 - h. Representative Daniel P. Reilly
 - i. Senator Cynthia A. Coyne
 - j. Senator Paul V. Jabour
 - k. Senator Christopher S. Ottiano
 - l. State Police Colonel Steven O’Donnell
 - m. Director of Corrections A. T. Wall
 - n. Director of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals Maria Montanaro
 - o. Mental Health Advocate Megan Clingham
 - p. Attorney General Peter Kilmartin
 - q. Public Defender Mary McElroy
 - r. Parole Board Chairperson Laura Pisaturo
 - s. R.I. Police Chiefs Association President Chief Brian Sullivan, Lincoln
 - t. NAACP Providence Branch President James Vincent
 - u. Latino Policy Institute Director Anna Cano-Morales
 - v. Providence Police Chief Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr.

- w. R.I. Human Rights Commission Executive Director Michael Évora
- x. R.I. Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers President Olin Thompson
- y. U.S. District Court Judge John J. McConnell, Jr.
- z. U.S. Attorney Peter Neronha

The Governor may designate any other members deemed appropriate to serve on the Working Group.

3. Chief Justice Paul Suttell and Retired Associate Justice Judith Savage shall serve as co-chairs.
4. The Working Group's meetings shall be public meetings. Members of the Working Group may be assigned to committees consistent with their areas of expertise and interest.
5. The Working Group shall engage and solicit input from a broad and diverse range of groups, organizations, and individuals. Specifically, the Working Group shall solicit input from victims' advocates, service providers, and formerly incarcerated individuals.
6. All departments, offices, boards and agencies of the State shall provide assistance and cooperation to the Working Group and the Council of State Governments Justice Center, including use of State facilities, which may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of this Executive Order.
7. All agencies shall provide staff support necessary for the Working Group.
8. The Working Group shall participate in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative ("JRI") of the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance. Assistance from the JRI may include data analysis; information on evidence-based practices related to criminal justice policies; facilitation and engagement of the public, interested parties, and public safety stakeholders; development of policy options and modeling of the impact of those options; and development of a communications plan.
9. The Working Group shall begin its work immediately. The Working Group shall receive recommendations from the Council of State Governments Justice Center and produce a written report no later than December 31, 2015. The Working Group's report shall provide the basis for omnibus legislation to be considered during the 2016 legislative session.

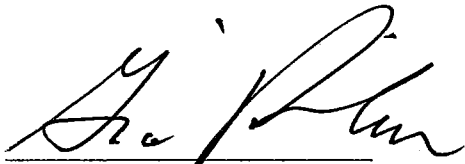
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10. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

So Ordered:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gina M. Raimondo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gina M. Raimondo

Governor

Dated: 7/7/15