



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**JB PRITZKER**  
GOVERNOR

March 15, 2022

Dear Chair Murphy and Spokesperson Plummer,

I am writing to provide you with information that is vitally important regarding the Prisoner Review Board (PRB). It is critical to both public safety and justice that the Senate Executive Appointments Committee act on this so that this board can fully function.

Without the adequate number of members, one of the key PRB functions that will be jeopardized is the responsibility for conducting Final Revocation Hearings. This function is not often reported on, but it is essential for public safety. Final Revocation Hearings are held for individuals who have re-entered DOC because they are alleged to have violated their MSR and/or parole conditions. Violating MSR and/or parole can happen for a variety of reasons – including the committing a new offense. Final Revocation Hearings must occur within 90 days of the reentrance to DOC custody. **If the hearing is not held within 90 days, the person is automatically deemed not to be in violation and is released from custody.**

There were approximately 4,595 Final Revocation Hearings in 2021. Given this case volume, Final Revocation Hearings occur across the state approximately 15-20 times per month, typically with 3 scheduled in different regions on the same day. According to statute, a minimum of 3 PRB members are required at each hearing.

Final Revocation Hearings are a vital public safety function of the PRB, and the board requires a sufficient number of members to perform that function. Without sufficient members, the PRB will be unable to continue to ensure that those who have violated the terms of their MSR and/or parole, including those who have committed new offenses, will be returned to incarceration.

In the coming weeks, Max Cerda, Jeffrey Mears, Oreal James, and Eleanor Wilson, all appointees of my administration, will be in a position to be confirmed by the Senate. Kenneth Tupy, Jared Bohland, LeAnn Miller also remain unconfirmed. To maintain a sufficient number of board members to conduct the vital public safety functions of the PRB, I request that all of these members are considered for confirmation.

I am committed to ensuring all public safety functions of the PRB are maintained, and my administration continues to work to fill vacancies on the board. I appreciate the assistance you've offered as we continue that process.

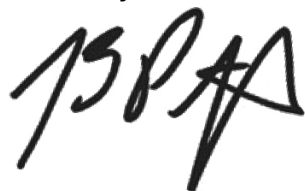
As my team has discussed with you, my administration continues to be open to legislation that adjusts and improves both the process and practice at the PRB. Specifically, I want to work with you and your colleagues to continue to provide transparency and help diversify professional and experiential expertise on the PRB.

I want to make sure you know that despite some recent claims by those attempting to politicize this apolitical board, the PRB already operates with significant transparency. A great deal of information is available to the public, including:

- Clemency and en banc hearings are open to the public pursuant to the Open Meetings Act
- Anyone can provide testimony at hearings
- All en banc decisions are available on the website, and clemency petitions, the supporting packets, and final decisions are available via FOIA
- Information currently posted on website:
  - Clemency hearing dates and deadlines for petitions for the entire year
  - En banc hearing schedule
  - Monthly board calendar
  - Victim notifications information
  - Ability to pre-register for en banc hearings
  - En banc hearing decisions

I appreciate your work to prioritize public safety. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or my staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker", with a stylized, overlapping "A" at the end.

Governor JB Pritzker