

February 15, 2024

**Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee**

Senator Ron Latz, Chair  
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Warren Limmer, Minority Lead  
2221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Division Committee**

Representative Kelly Moller, Chair  
509 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Paul Novotny, Minority Lead  
301 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Submission of Board of Pardons Report, as Required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 638.075**

Dear Legislators:

Minnesota Statutes, section 638.075 required that the Department of Corrections submit a report to the legislature reporting the number of pardons, commutations, and pardon extraordinary applications received and those granted by the Board.

For awareness, the 2023 report is the last one to be submitted under the statute as it was repealed in 2023 and replaced with Minnesota Statute 638.22. Under M.S. 638.22, new reporting requirements of the Clemency Review Commission begin in 2025.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Emily Lefholz, Legislative Director at 651-341-2385.

Sincerely,

Paul Schnell, Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Corrections

Enclosure

cc: Emily Lefholz  
Legislative Reference Library

**2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
**MINNESOTA BOARD OF PARDONS**

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January 24, 2024

The total cost of salaries, printing, and supplies incurred in the development and preparation of this report was approximately \$500 (reported as required by Minn. Stat. § 3.197).

This report can be provided in another format upon request.

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

### MINNESOTA BOARD OF PARDONS

#### **Background**

The Minnesota Board of Pardons (Board) is required to file a written report with the legislature by February 15 of each year, reporting the number of pardon/commutation and pardon extraordinary applications received and those granted by the Board. Minn. Stat. § 638.075.

The Board is made up of Minnesota's Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Attorney General. Under Article V, Section 7 of the Minnesota Constitution and Minn. Stat. Chapter 638, the Board may grant the following types of relief to persons who have been convicted of crimes:

- **Pardon** – an act of forgiveness that exempts the convicted person from the punishment imposed by law.
- **Commutation** – the substitution of a lesser or different type of punishment for that imposed in the original sentence.
- **Pardon Extraordinary** – a statutorily-created relief granted to applicants who have served their sentences. When a pardon extraordinary is granted, the court is directed to issue an order setting aside the conviction and the applicant is no longer required to report the conviction, except in specified circumstances. The original conviction and the pardon extraordinary are recorded on the applicant's criminal record.

Pardons/commutations may be granted to persons who are currently serving active Minnesota sentences. Pardons extraordinary may be granted to persons who committed Minnesota crimes, have fully served their sentences, and have waited the applicable waiting periods after discharge from their sentences before applying for relief.

#### **2023 Meetings**

The Board met on June 28, June 29, December 18, and December 19, 2023.

#### **APPLICATIONS PROCESSED AND ACTION TAKEN IN 2023**

Type of Application	Applications Processed	Number Granted
Pardon/Commutation	82 (6 withdrawn) (12 ineligible)	5
Pardon Extraordinary	77 (4 withdrawn) (11 ineligible) (3 continued to spring 2024)	50

### PARDONS/COMMUTATIONS GRANTED IN 2023

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>	<b>Relief Granted</b>
Cabrera, Christopher	Attempted first-degree murder while committing a drive-by shooting	22	2006	Commutation
Ebinger Jr., Michael	Second-degree intentional murder	30	2000	Commutation
Onyelobi, Maureen	Aiding and abetting first-degree premeditated murder	28	2014	Commutation
Souvannarath, Hansakda	Attempted first-degree murder	19	1995	Commutation
Washington, Gregory	Third-degree criminal sexual conduct	32	2009	Commutation

### PARDONS EXTRAORDINARY GRANTED IN 2023

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
Abdalla, Jaylani	Wrongfully obtaining food stamps	40	1998
Ahmed, Ibrahim	Fifth-degree assault	32	1988
	First-degree damage to property	35	1992
Anderson, Paula	Offering a forged check	22	2005
	Offering a forged check	23	2006
	Check forgery	24	2006
	Offering a forged check	24	2006
	Identity theft	24	2007
	Identity theft	24	2007
	Wrongfully obtaining public assistance	26	2011
Block, Brady	Second-degree assault	26	2009
	Domestic assault		
Bockelmann, Troy	Financial transaction card fraud	18	1997
	Offering a forged check	18	1997
	Unlawful possession of a firearm	18	1998
	Unlawful possession of a firearm	18	1998
	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	18	1998
	Second-degree possession of controlled substance	24	2003

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
Braaten, Brett	Criminal vehicular injury	18	2002
	Criminal vehicular homicide	18	2006
	Third-degree driving while impaired	22	2006
Brush, Bruce	Disorderly conduct	29	1987
Bush, Lannie	Domestic assault by strangulation	19	2008
Chang, Dang	Third-degree criminal sexual conduct	23	1999
Clark, Alexander	Domestic assault	19	2009
Coleman-Smith, Shawn	Second-degree possession of controlled substance	24	2003
	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	24	2003
	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	25	2003
	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	26	2004
Davis, James *	Domestic assault	36	2004
Demorest, Scott	Third-degree sale of cocaine (two counts)	27	1990
Ellis, Catherine	Offering a forged check	26	1997
Evans, Harold	Aggravated forgery	18	1983
	Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle		
Faubion, Alan	Theft of a firearm	20	2001
	Violating a domestic abuse order		
Francis, Anthony	Theft	21	2012
Ha, Tai	Drive-by shooting	17	2002
Hicks-Luckett, Tracey	Fifth-degree possession of cocaine	22	1994
	Third-degree possession of cocaine	35	2007
Hillstrom, Richard	Fourth-degree sale of a controlled substance	18	2004
	Receiving stolen property	23	2009
	Identity theft	24	2010
Hilton, Kenneth	Fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance	31	2006
Hooper Jr., Walter	Attempted aggravated robbery	16	1999
	Simple robbery	17	1999
	Simple robbery	17	1999
	Escape from custody	20	2001
	Offering a forged check	20	2002
	Financial transaction card fraud	26	2009
Jackson, Deonte	Aiding and abetting a drive-by shooting	21	2008
Jamison Jr., Leonard	Third-degree burglary	19	1992
Johnson, Jason	Criminal vehicular operation	39	2009

\* Conditional pardon granted.

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
Jones, Michael	Fifth-degree possession of cocaine	19	1998
	Third-degree sale of cocaine	24	2001
Kaardal, Cade	Domestic assault	22	2017
Klug, Chad	Domestic assault	33	2005
	Domestic assault	35	2007
Kohnke, Joshua	Third-degree sale of a controlled substance	20	2000
Lopez Quiroz, Georgina	Wrongfully obtaining public assistance	18	2008
Lorge, James	Aiding and abetting first-degree manufacture of methamphetamine	28	2005
	Possessing stolen property		
Martens, Matthew	First-degree manufacture of methamphetamine	29	2005
Meyer, Rick	First-degree manufacture of methamphetamine	25	2004
	Driving while impaired		
Miles, Lawrence	Second-degree possession of controlled substance	26	2008
	Second-degree possession of controlled substance	28	2010
Murphy, Deanna	First-degree assault	35	2007
Nevares, Javier	Insurance fraud	40	2008
	Theft		
Raino, Linda	Aggravated assault	19	1979
	Aggravated DWI	25	1986
Rulford, Samantha	Theft of a motor vehicle	19	2000
Sarjoh, Abass	Theft	21	2006
	Theft	21	2007
Schaal, Douglas	Fifth-degree assault	26	1991
Schumann, Luke	Interference with a 911 call	21	2001
Stafford, Kobie	Domestic assault	22	1995
Sublett, Katherine	First-degree sale of a controlled substance	32	1992
Swart, Aaron	Third-degree assault	19	2005
Vodovnik, Justin	Fifth-degree assault	18	1993
	Disorderly conduct	19	1994
	Disorderly conduct	20	1996
	Domestic assault	23	1998
	Domestic assault	30	2005
	Domestic assault	30	2006
Watts Jr., Jeffrey	Second-degree assault	21	2003

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Offense(s)</b>	<b>Age at Time of Offense</b>	<b>Year of Conviction</b>
Werra, Gabriel	Third-degree criminal sexual conduct (three counts)	18	1993
Yang, Cheng	First-degree criminal damage to property	19	2001
	Attempted theft of a motor vehicle	19	2002
	Second-degree burglary (two counts)	21	2004
Zenker, Roxanne	First-degree arson	20	2002
Ziemann, Tristan	Drive-by shooting	20	2007