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Minnesota Board of Pardons

Annual Report to the Legislature -- 1999 Activity

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1999 LEGISLATIVE REPORT **MINNESOTA BOARD OF PARDONS**

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §638.075 (1996), the Board of Pardons is required to file a written report by February 1st each year with the legislature summarizing actions it took during the previous year.

The Minnesota Board of Pardons is made up of the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Attorney General. The board is authorized to grant the following types of extraordinary relief to persons who have been convicted of crimes:

- ◆ **pardon** - an act of forgiveness which exempts the convicted person from the punishment imposed by the law.
- ◆ **commutation** - the substitution of a lesser or different type of punishment for the original sentence.
- ◆ **pardon extraordinary**- statutorily created relief granted after the applicant has served the sentence. When a pardon extraordinary is granted, the court issues an order to set aside the conviction and the person is no longer required to report the conviction, however, the conviction remains in the criminal history record.

Applications Requested

During 1999, staff of the Board of Pardons sent out 65 applications for pardon extraordinary and 22 for pardon/commutation. When anyone calls to request an application, staff explain the eligibility requirements and make every effort to determine whether the interested individual is eligible before an application is sent. This careful screening appears to be accomplishing its purpose because the number of applications returned due to ineligibility remains very low.

Decisions

The Board granted 7 pardons extraordinary during 1999. Although the eligibility requirement for non-violent offenses is five years, the Board did not grant a pardon extraordinary to anyone with less than seven years of law-abiding conduct since the completion of the sentence. The Board accepted the recommendations of staff on all applicants for pardon and commutation and denied all of them.

Other Activities

The database for information on applicants, which was completed in 1996, has enabled staff to do record checks for local law enforcement agencies on the computer. In 1999, staff checked for records on 550 police academy and gun permit applicants. Staff also responded to written correspondence sent directly to the Board of Pardons or referred by the Governor's office or the Commissioner of Corrections, and responded to over 800 phone calls.

For additional information about the Board of Pardons, feel free to contact the Board of Pardons at (651) 642-0284.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND ACTION TAKEN IN 1999

	<u>No. of Appl. Considered</u>	<u>No. of Appl. Not Eligible/Denied</u>	<u>No. Granted</u>
Pardons/Commutations	5	3 Not Eligible/5 Denied	0
Pardons Extraordinary	14	7 Denied	7

PARDONS EXTRAORDINARY GRANTED IN 1999

<u>APPLICANT</u> (AGE AT TIME OF CONVICTION)	<u>YR. OF CONVICTION</u>	<u>CRIME(S)</u>
Chaffee, Bruce James 23	1985	Burglary, 3 rd Degree
Granquist, Jonathan Kent 19	1983	Theft
Johnson, Kenneth Robert 23	1967	Aggravated Robbery
Lovold, Leonard Charles 23 & 25	1978 1980	Receiving stolen property Burglary
Thompson, Steven Scott 22	1979	Burglary
White, Richard Stuart 38	1982	Possession of controlled substance
Wittrock, Brian W. 25	1981	Possession and sale of marijuana