



Governor Bill Richardson Removes State Parole Board Director Bob Martinez

Governor calls failure to notify victims about parole hearing for convicted sex offender “a serious breach of public trust”

For Immediate Release
August 13, 2004

Contact: Pahl Shipley
505.476.2202

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today removed Bob Martinez from his position as Director of the state’s Adult Parole Board for failing to notify victims that a convicted sex offender was scheduled for a parole hearing, as required by law.

“The Adult Parole Board’s failure to notify victims about this hearing was a violation of the state constitution and a serious breach of public trust,” said Governor Richardson. “As Director, Bob Martinez is accountable for the actions of the board and its employees, and this kind of error will not be tolerated. The public, especially crime victims, must have complete confidence in the system.”

The Adult Parole Board failed to notify the victims of convicted sex offender and former priest David Holley about a scheduled parole hearing for Holley. At that hearing, the board granted parole to Holley, who has served 11 years of a 55-270 year sentence for pleading guilty to charges of sexual assault, sodomy, and aggravated sodomy. After the error was discovered, the board rescinded Holley’s parole and, at the request of Governor Richardson, has scheduled a new hearing for September 14th.

“I’m outraged the board would grant parole to this offender given the seriousness of the crimes and length of the original sentence,” said the Governor. “I will not stop working to ensure our criminal laws and sentences are enforced and the rights of victims are not abused or ignored.”

Sherry Stephens, the Deputy Director of the Adult Parole Board, will manage the day-to-day operations of the board office while the search for a new director proceeds.