



## State of New Jersey

### STATE PAROLE BOARD

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# Media Release

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## Fugitive Safe Surrender Succeeds Beyond Expectations *2,245 Fugitives Turned Themselves in, Making Camden's the Second-Largest Fugitive Safe Surrender Initiative*

CAMDEN – A total of 2,245 fugitives from across New Jersey turned themselves in last week during Fugitive Safe Surrender – nearly three times as many as were expected to participate. The striking turnout made Camden's initiative the second-largest in the history of Fugitive Safe Surrender, despite the fact that Camden is the smallest city to participate in the program.

State Parole Board Chairman Peter J. Barnes Jr. today commended US Marshal James Plousis; the Rev. John O. Parker, pastor of Antioch Baptist Church; Msgr. Michael Mannion of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; Camden County Prosecutor Warren W. Faulk; Camden County Sheriff Charles H. Billingham; Camden City Police Director Louis A. Vega; representatives of the Office of the Attorney General and the New Jersey State Police; and other partners, as they announced the tally of fugitives who took advantage of the opportunity to surrender peacefully.

Fugitive Safe Surrender is an initiative of the US Marshals Service, supported by the New Jersey State Parole Board and partner law enforcement agencies at the Federal, State and local levels. The initiative had never before been held in New Jersey.

"Fugitive Safe Surrender has greatly exceeded our expectations, to help thousands of fugitives face the court and get back on the road toward leading productive, law-abiding lives," Barnes said. "This is an important reentry program, consistent with our mission under the Governor's Crime Plan. The State Parole Board is proud to have helped make this success possible."

US Marshal Plousis said, "We are more than pleased with the success of this program. Due to the hard work of many agencies, Camden's Fugitive Safe Surrender has outdone the previous efforts in 10 other cities and came in second only to the much larger city of Detroit – despite the fact that Camden is the smallest city to have participated in this initiative. The benefits of being able to reenter society will reverberate far beyond the thousands who participated, to touch their families and their communities all across New Jersey."

The final results of Camden's Fugitive Safe Surrender initiative are as follows:

- Total number of fugitives from across New Jersey who turned themselves in and had work begun on their warrants from Nov. 19 through Nov. 22 at Antioch Baptist Church: **2,245**

- Total cases resolved as of Nov. 24: **682** individual fugitives, representing **1,950** warrants
- Of the 1,950 warrants: **1,872** were misdemeanors; **40** were felonies; **38** are currently unknown
- **83** who surrendered had no active warrants
- **Nine** individuals were arrested, representing **1 percent** of the individuals processed (The national average of arrests at Fugitive Safe Surrender initiatives is 3 percent)
- Total cases remaining to be adjudicated as of today: **1,563** individual fugitives, averaging about three warrants per individual
- Total warrants from across New Jersey to be cleared when the pending individuals are processed: **4,700** warrants

Fugitive Safe Surrender is a public safety initiative of the US Marshals Service in collaboration with the New Jersey State Parole Board, US Attorney's Office, New Jersey Attorney General's Office, New Jersey State Police, Superior Court of Camden County, the Camden County, Gloucester County and Salem County prosecutors offices; the Camden County, Gloucester County and Salem County sheriffs departments; the office of the Mayor of Camden; the Camden Police Department; and neighboring municipal police departments. Partner agencies include Antioch Baptist Church; the Catholic Diocese of Camden; the Camden County Board of Social Services; and the region's faith-based and community-based organizations.

More information about Fugitive Safe Surrender can be found at:  
<http://www.usmarshals.gov/safesurrender/index.html>.

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is New Jersey's lead reentry agency, and works to ensure ex-prisoners return to society as law-abiding citizens. As required by law, appointed Parole Board Members and staff conduct more than 20,000 hearings per year, solicit input from victims and decide parole matters. SPB sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,000 offenders statewide. In addition, SPB is New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. SPB officers are also active partners with multiple Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit and private agencies to connect ex-prisoners with vocational, mental health and related services, targeted to break the cycle and risk of crime.

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