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**STATE VICTIM ADVOCATE ANNOUNCES THE “VICTIM ANONYMITY” POLICY
ADOPTED BY THE CONNECTICUT BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES.**

(Hartford, CT) --- State Victim Advocate Garvin G. Ambrose today announces the agreement between the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) to safeguard the identities of victims and their family members who choose to participate in the parole hearing process.

In an effort that began with the advocacy of former State Victim Advocate Michelle Cruz and one of our victims, better known as “Ladyjustice,” Victim Advocate Ambrose is grateful for the willingness of Chairman Tindill and her Board to work with his office to make this a reality. In a memorandum from Chairman Tindill to the Office of Victim Services (OVS) Advocates, the adopted policy is as follows:

“Effective immediately, if a victim does not wish to identify themselves on the record at a parole hearing they will not be required to do so. It is expected that you will have identified the victim for OVS records and determined that such person has standing to present their views to the panel.”

“This request is not made often. However, it is important that crime victims who do not wish to reveal their identities are able to meaningfully engage in the parole hearing process” stated Tindill.

While obtaining this policy is a great step forward for victims, Ambrose cautions that education and awareness of victims’ rights is paramount to effective advocacy throughout this system. “It is my hope that the OVS advocates and the Board as a whole will make victims aware of this new policy prior to their involvement with the parole process,” stated Ambrose. “The OVA will continue to do its part in educating the public about this and other policies that affect the level of services provided to crime victims throughout this state,” Ambrose concluded.

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