

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF PARDONS  
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

February 14, 1997

Submitted by Jean M. Whitney, Secretary  
Minnesota Board of Pardons

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

# MINNESOTA BOARD OF PARDONS

## INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §638.075 (1996), the Board of Pardons is required to file a written report 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.

## 1996 ACTIVITIES

During 1996, staff of the Board of Pardons, sent out 98 applications for pardon extraordinary and 13 for pardon commutation. When anyone calls to request an application, staff carefully 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.

The Board granted 21 pardons extraordinary during 1996. Of that number, two were for individuals who had applied previously and were told by the Board to reapply after several more years. 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.

During 1996, the staff of the Board of Pardons created a new database for information on applicants. This has enabled us to do record checks for local law enforcement agencies on the computer which has saved a considerable amount of time. In 1996, we checked for records on 671 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, the Commissioner of Corrections, and responded to 412 phone calls.

A summary of the past year's activities is also provided in chart form. The charts provide more detailed information about the pardons extraordinary that were granted, including the crimes(s) for which the applicant was convicted, the year of the conviction and the age of the applicant at the time of the conviction.

For additional information about the Board of Pardons, feel free to contact Jean Whitney, Secretary, at (612) 642-0284.

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

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND ACTION TAKEN IN 1996**

	<u>No. of Appl. Submitted</u>	<u>No. of Appl. Returned/ Not Eligible</u>	<u>No. Granted</u>
Pardons	3	0	0
Commutations	1	0	0
Pardons Extraordinary	27	5	21

**PARDONS EXTRAORDINARY GRANTED IN 1996**

<u>APPLICANT</u> <u>AGE AT TIME OF CONVICTION</u> <b>APRIL 16, 1996</b>	<u>YR. OF CONVICTION</u>	<u>CRIME(S)</u>
Abrahamson, Curtis 21	1969	Theft by Check
Albert, Monica E. 20	1969	Aggravated Assault
*Beissel, William P. 21	1968	Felony Theft
Borseth, Thomas O. 33	1977	Aggravated Forgery
Camp, Ray B. 19-28	1958 1967	Burglary Burglary
Cooper, Kenneth J. Uttering a Forged Instrument Burglary	23	1982
*Kennedy, Richard J. 46	1978	Sale of unregistered securities; theft by swindle; fraud in sale of securities.
*Kilbo, Erik J.	1989	Financial Transaction Card 23 Fraud
Meckel, Loretta J. 20	1970	Forgery
*Nelson, Christopher 35	1982	Theft
*Nielsen, Mary T.	1981	Arson-Third Degree

Schwertel, David J. 20	1976	Felony Theft
Soderberg, Eldon S.	1970 Vehicle	Unauthorized Use of Motor 18
Weinmann, Nona C. 44	1987	Theft by Check
<b>SEPTEMBER 23, 1996</b>		
Bjork, William Floyd	1989	Criminal Damage to 21 Property
*Brunette, Leonard Lee	1985	Engaging in Prostitution 36
Dahman, Sherry Lee 30	1984 1984	Theft Possession of Stolen Property, Possession of Controlled Substance.
Johnson, Michelle Jane 20	1986	Theft by Swindle
Ronneng, Leo James	1970	Unauthorized use of motor 20 vehicle
Eustice, Gary D. 35	1986	Felony Theft
*Savannah Russell 33	1981	Promotion of Prostitution

\*Represented by Attorney