



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

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January 14, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yankton man elected chairman of Board of Pardons and Paroles

(Sioux Falls) – Thomas Cihak of Yankton has been elected the new chairman of the South Dakota Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Cihak was elected to lead the Board during their meeting January 10th. He succeeds Jerome Lammers of Madison. Sara Burnette of Sioux Falls was elected the new vice-chair of the Board, succeeding Cihak.

The Board of Pardons and Paroles conducts hearings on parole releases and parole revocations and considers clemency requests upon the request of the Governor.

The nine-member Board consists of three appointments of the Governor, three appointments of the Attorney General, and three appointments of the South Dakota Supreme Court. One of the appointees by each appointing authority must be an attorney.

Cihak was appointed to the Parole Board in 2002 by former Governor William Janklow. Burnette was a 2006 appointment of the state Supreme Court. Lammers was appointed to the Board in 2002 by the Attorney General's Office.

For more information on the Board of Pardons and Paroles, see the Department of Corrections website at <http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/parole.htm>.

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Broadcasters: Mr. Cihak's name is pronounced CHEE'-hahk