



CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 3-6, 2010

**For immediate release:** November 4, 2010

**Contact:**

Neal Buccino, NJ State Parole Board, 609-292-4031 office; 609-468-9728 cell; [neal.buccino@spb.state.nj.us](mailto:neal.buccino@spb.state.nj.us)

Paul Loriquet, NJ Department of Law and Public Safety, 609-292-4791, [paul.loriquet@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:paul.loriquet@lps.state.nj.us)

Chandra Hayslett, First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, 732-816-4650, [chayslett@fbcsomerset.com](mailto:chayslett@fbcsomerset.com)

---

## **Fugitive Safe Surrender Update: Total of approximately 1,400 Have Surrendered as of Midday Thursday**

NEW BRUNSWICK – Approximately 1,400 individuals from across New Jersey have turned themselves in at Fugitive Safe Surrender as of noon today, Thursday, November 4, the mid-point of the four-day event. The total includes 936 who voluntarily surrendered on Wednesday, and exceeds the number seen during the equivalent time frame during last year's Fugitive Safe Surrender event, held November 2009 in Newark.

New Jersey Attorney General Paula T. Dow, State Parole Board Chairman James T. Plousis and the Reverend Dr. DeForest B. Soaries Jr., Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, lauded the event during a media conference this afternoon.

"The opportunity to surrender at a neutral location – this magnificent church – and receive favorable consideration from the court is helping so many people get back on track towards leading productive, law-abiding lives," Attorney General Dow said. "If you have an outstanding warrant, many doors will be closed, many opportunities will be missed, especially job opportunities to allow you to lead a productive life. I encourage any fugitive out there, who is debating whether or not to take action, to do it. This may be the last time this program is offered in New Jersey."

"Fugitive Safe Surrender was created, first and foremost, to prevent the risk of harm, both for law enforcement officers and for individuals who are wanted even for minor offenses such as unpaid municipal fines," Parole Chairman – and former US Marshal – Plousis said. "The 1,400 people who have turned themselves in so far represent a tremendous success for public safety, and for the lives of those who will no longer have to live in hiding."

"First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens chose to participate in this program because its emphasis is on upholding the rule of law, and encouraging people to take responsibility for their actions," Pastor Soaries said. "Rather than being given amnesty, they are held accountable and required to make some amends to society for what they have done. Sometimes good people commit bad actions. For those people, this is a limited opportunity to come forward and make things right."

Some facts from today:

- A total of approximately 1,400 individuals (including 936 on Wednesday) have turned themselves in as of noon today. None have been taken into custody. A more complete total, with breakdowns by types of warrant and by the counties at which the warrant originated, will be available Monday.
- It has been estimated that each person who voluntarily surrenders on a non-violent municipal offense such as unpaid parking fees represents a savings of approximately \$420. This includes the cost of the average two-and-a-half-day jail stay for arrests on municipal charges, and the police man-hours involved in arresting, transporting and processing the wanted individual. This does not include the additional economic gains realized through municipalities' ability to collect fines and court fees that would otherwise not be paid; the

collection of driver's license restoration fees for those newly able to regain their driving privileges; and the fact that those living on the right side of the law are more employable and productive.

"Fugitive Safe Surrender-Central Jersey" began Wednesday, November 3 and will continue through Saturday, November 6, at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, 771 Somerset Street, Somerset, NJ 08873. Individuals wanted on warrants issued by any New Jersey state, county or mulaw enforcement agency may voluntarily surrender at the church from 9 amto 4 pm on those days.

Fugitive Safe Surrender is not an amnesty program, but individuals wanted for non-violent offenses will be given favorable consideration for their decision to voluntarily and peacefully surrender, face the court and take responsibility for their offenses. Individuals wanted for violent crimes may also surrender, but they are very likely to be taken into custody. Members of the public may call **732-828-2009** or visit [www.FSSNJ.com](http://www.FSSNJ.com) for more information.

Fugitive Safe Surrender is made possible with help from a host of agencies and organizations at the Federal, State, county, municipal, community-based and faith-based levels. The Rutgers School of Criminal Justice and the Rutgers Police Institute are convening the discussions between partner agencies, inviting social service organizations to participate and offer services to those who surrender, organizing and training volunteers to serve at the surrender site, and conducting community outreach to make fugitives and their families aware of the opportunity to surrender. A full list of the partner agencies and organizations is available.

###