



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2017

Operation Safe Return a Success for State and Local Agencies

Harrisburg, PA – PA Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP), the Dauphin County District Attorney's Office and representatives from the Harrisburg Police Department, Dauphin County Sheriff's Office, local elected officials and community leaders held Operation Safe Return, September 21-23 in Harrisburg. The operation was an overwhelming success, with more than 700 individuals turning themselves in to law enforcement and 5,340 warrants processed over the three-day period.

"Staff worked for almost a year with community and law enforcement leaders to lay the groundwork for a successful operation in Harrisburg," said PBPP Chairman Leo Dunn. "I want to especially thank PBPP Board Member Michael Potteiger for successfully leading this project and Pastor Raleigh Wingfield, of Zion Assembly in Harrisburg for all his hard work coordinating the volunteers and hosting the Safe Return days at his church."

Approximately 100 community volunteers assisted in transforming the church into a satellite courthouse complete with courtrooms and offices for the State Parole Board, sheriff, district attorney, judges and public defender.

Harrisburg's Safe Return is a multi-agency/community collaboration that affords individuals the opportunity to address certain outstanding warrants via an expedited hearing process. Participants did receive favorable consideration in light of their voluntary surrender.

The PBPP is planning Safe Return days in other areas around the state, and hopes to work not only with the religious communities and law enforcement, but also with counseling and job placements services to assist those who seek to turn their lives around.

For more information about the PBPP, please visit the website at www.pbpp.pa.gov.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Maria A. Finn, PBPP, 717.231.4411
Amy Richards Harinath, Dauphin County, 717.780.6311

###