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OWENS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM THE TEXAS BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES.

Huntsville, TX (August 31, 2015) — A pioneer in the Texas criminal justice field and a career filled with “firsts,” the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles’ (BPP) Chairman, Rissie Owens, has announced her retirement, after more than 18 years with the Board — the last 12 as its Chairman.

“It was my privilege to have been appointed by Governors Bush and Perry. It has been an honor to work beside exceptional Board Members, Parole Commissioners and highly qualified BPP staff throughout my tenure, who without, it would not have been possible to accomplish my goals in shaping and leading our agency as one of the most recognized in the United States.”

Owens, who was appointed by Governor George W. Bush to the BPP in 1997 and then to the Chairman’s role in 2003, and reappointed to the Board in 2009 by Governor Rick Perry, was the agency’s first woman Chair. As one of the state’s highest-ranking women, Owens oversaw 20 voting members, seven Board Offices and an agency staff of approximately 650 statewide. In addition to her BPP duties, she has over 25 years of experience in the educational field and various advancing criminal justice career positions.

No successor has been named.

The Board of Pardons and Paroles, established by the Texas Constitution, decides which eligible offenders to release on parole, the conditions for parole and whether to revoke parole if conditions are not met, as well as recommendation of resolution of clemency matters to the Governor. For more information, please visit: <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/bpp/index.htm>

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