



Councilmember Charles Allen

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the month of April 2018 as “Second Chance Month” in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, every person is endowed with human dignity and value;

WHEREAS, redemption and compassion are American and District values;

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 million Americans possess a criminal record;

WHEREAS, returning citizens account for one in ten District residents;

WHEREAS, individuals with a criminal record often face significant barriers, also known as collateral consequences, when reintegrating into society;

WHEREAS, the District has a unique relationship with the federal government, such that adults who are convicted of District felony offenses are sent to Bureau of Prisons facilities across the country;

WHEREAS, District residents who are in Bureau of Prisons facilities may be hundreds of miles away from their families and disconnected from District services, thus exacerbating the collateral consequences they face when returning to the District;

WHEREAS, many of these collateral consequences are automatic and do not consider the severity of the offense committed, the time elapsed since its commission, the individual’s efforts to make amends and regain the public’s trust, or whether the consequence has a proven public safety benefit;

WHEREAS, obtaining meaningful employment is one of the most significant barriers to reducing recidivism and ultimately increasing public safety;

46 WHEREAS, 65 percent of all jobs in the American economy are predicted to require
47 postsecondary education and training beyond high school by 2020;

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49 WHEREAS, housing is an additional obstacle for returning citizens, as the District is one
50 of the most expensive jurisdictions in which to live, and public housing options are limited;

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52 WHEREAS, in recent years, the Council has passed groundbreaking legislation designed
53 to reduce barriers to employment and housing for individuals with criminal records, including the
54 Fair Criminal Record Screening Amendment Act of 2014 and the Fair Criminal Record Screening
55 for Housing Act of 2016;

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57 WHEREAS, the Council is currently considering several measures to reform the District's
58 sealing and expungement laws to allow District residents with arrest records and criminal
59 convictions to move forward in their lives;

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61 WHEREAS, the designation of April as Second Chance Month will increase public
62 awareness about the challenges faced by those who have paid their debt to society, and
63 opportunities for individuals, employers, housing providers, congregations, and communities to
64 extend second chances.

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66 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
67 resolution may be cited as the "Second Chance Month Recognition Resolution of 2018".

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69 Sec. 2. The Council declares the month of April 2018 as "Second Chance Month" in the
70 District of Columbia.

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72 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
73 the District of Columbia Register.