

Proclamation



SECOND CHANCE MONTH

APRIL 2019

WHEREAS, every person deserves an opportunity to rebuild their lives, reach their fullest potential and become productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record; and

WHEREAS, individuals returning from prison, and those who have paid their debt after committing a crime, face significant barriers when reintegrating back into society; and

WHEREAS, these barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety, along with the stigma and legal obstacles associated with a criminal record; and

WHEREAS, individuals with a criminal history, often struggle to find housing, secure employment, pursue higher education, regain voting rights, and volunteer, as a result of their conviction and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens Affairs (ORCA) provides information, support and services for individuals who are returning to the community:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF WASHINGTON, DC, do hereby proclaim April 2019, in Washington, DC as "SECOND CHANCE MONTH".



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Muriel Bowser", written over a horizontal line.