

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE,
ARROYO, BOK, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, LARA,
MEJIA, MURPHY AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CELEBRATE
APRIL 2023 AS SECOND CHANCE MONTH IN BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** A criminal record should not mean a lifetime disqualification from the opportunity to build a better life; *and*
- WHEREAS,** An estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record, with 11,330 individuals incarcerated in Massachusetts and nearly 40,000 individuals on probation and parole in Massachusetts; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Reentry services organizations—often led by formerly incarcerated residents themselves—offer vital support to the City of Boston’s returning citizens, working tirelessly to ensure that when our residents return from incarceration, they return home for good; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Successful reentry to society is an important racial justice issue as people of color—particularly Black residents—are widely overrepresented in both Massachusetts’ prisons and jails; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Evidence shows that BIPOC residents are disproportionately impacted by the harmful impact of the wide-reaching carceral system; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 2017, the City of Boston created the Mayor’s Office of Returning Citizens aimed at supporting our City’s returning residents through case management and supportive services; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Criminal records create significant barriers to accessing employment, housing, education, transportation, healthcare, and other social benefits; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The designation of April as Second Chance Month will contribute to increased public awareness about the disparate, harmful impact of mass incarceration and would support the creation of opportunities for individuals, employers, and communities to support the City’s returning citizens, ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the City Council assembled hereby proclaims, in recognition of significant contributions of the City of Boston’s reentry organizations and the harmful consequence of mass incarceration for our residents, the month of April to be Second Chance Month in the City of Boston.

Filed on: March 31, 2023