

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2024 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-027-2024

Proposed by The Chair (by request - County Executive)

Introduced by Council Members Ivey, Watson, Olson, Fisher, Oriadha, Dernoga,
Hawkins, Burroughs and Franklin

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction April 9, 2024

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Designating April as “Second Chance Month”

3 For the purpose of collectively recognizing the month of April as “Second Chance Month” to
 4 celebrate the power of redemption and renewal in the lives of formerly incarcerated individuals
 5 seeking to rebuild their lives and thrive; raising awareness of unnecessary barriers faced by
 6 individuals with criminal records; promoting policies and initiatives that remove barriers to re-
 7 entry and help individuals with criminal records rebuild their lives and contribute positively to
 8 society; and honoring those who work towards removing unnecessary barriers and support
 9 formerly incarcerated individuals.

10 **WHEREAS**, every individual is endowed with human dignity and value;

11 **WHEREAS**, redemption and second chances are values of Prince George’s County;

12 **WHEREAS**, hundreds of thousands of individuals return to their communities from federal
 13 and state prisons and local jails every year;

14 **WHEREAS**, many individuals returning from federal and state prisons and local jails have
 15 paid their debt for committing crimes but still face significant barriers (referred to in this
 16 Resolution as “collateral consequences”);

17 **WHEREAS**, collateral consequences for an individual returning from a federal or state
 18 prison and local jail are often inevitable and take effect automatically;

19 **WHEREAS**, collateral consequences prevent some formerly incarcerated individuals in the
 20 United States from contributing fully to their families and communities;

21 **WHEREAS**, collateral consequences have particularly impacted underserved communities

1 of color and community rates of employment, housing stability, and recidivism;

2 **WHEREAS**, the inability to find gainful employment and other collateral consequences
3 inhibit the economic mobility of an individual with a criminal record, which can negatively
4 impact the well-being of the children and family of the individual for generations;

5 **WHEREAS**, the Alsobrooks Administration and County Council have been committed to
6 strengthening re-entry services by including re-entry as a Proud Priority, with the goal of better
7 coordinating re-entry services and finding ways to strengthen those services through a
8 centralized office; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Re-entry Advisory Board (RAB) was created by Resolution CR-49-2019
10 to address the needs of returning citizens in Prince George’s County, researching best practices
11 and surveying County agencies and nonprofit organizations to identify gaps in services and make
12 recommendations to the Office of the County Executive, including the creation of the Prince
13 George’s County Returning Citizens Affairs Division (RCAD) in May 2022; and

14 **WHEREAS**, RCAD is dedicated to leading the County in being a regional and national
15 model re-entry ecosystem, providing residents released from incarceration in state, local, and
16 federal facilities with opportunities to transform their lives and become fully engaged and
17 productive members of the community; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the RCAD provides countywide coordination and oversight for Prince
19 George’s County’s network of services for returning citizens, including coordination of services,
20 community engagement, policy and advocacy, research, resource development, programmatic
21 assessments and recommendations, and the creation of a "Re-entry Playbook" to guide the
22 Division in building an ecosystem that works for returning citizens in Prince George’s County;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, the RCAD has convened faith leaders throughout Prince George’s County to
25 discuss strategies to help returning citizens, including securing personal documentation,
26 supporting re-entry ministries, and creating mentoring programs. The RCAD has also launched
27 the Pathways to Government Initiative, the Re-entry Employment Incentive Program, as well as
28 awarded \$100,000 in grants to community-based organizations; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the designation of April as “Second Chance Month” will promote public
30 awareness about the impact of collateral consequences; the need for closure for individuals with
31 a criminal record who have paid their debt; opportunities for individuals, employers,

1 congregations, and communities to extend second chances to those individuals.

2 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the County Council of Prince George's
3 County, Maryland, that the month of April is designated as "Second Chance Month";

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that "Second Chance Month" honors the work of
5 communities, nonprofit organizations, congregations, employers, and individuals to remove
6 unnecessary barriers that prevent individuals with criminal records from becoming productive
7 members of society; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the people of Prince George's County are called
9 upon to observe "Second Chance Month" through actions and programs that promote awareness
10 of unnecessary barriers and provide closure for individuals with criminal records who have paid
11 their debts to the community.

Adopted this 9th day of April, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: Jolene Ivey
Jolene Ivey
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council