**Commission on Reentry and Returning Citizen Affairs**

**January 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes Summary**

(2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE)

# Opening - Call to order by Commission Chair (6:57 pm)

1. **Roll Call**

**Attendees**

Brian Ferguson (Director of MORCA)

Tony Lewis (CSOSA/Chairman)

Stenise Sanders (Secretary)

Marcus Bullock (Commission)

Tanisha Murden (Commission)

Eric Weaver (Commission)

Nicole Porter (Commission)

Decarlo Washington (Commission)

Corwin Knight (Commission)

Clarence Johnson (Commission)

# Quorum Established

# Old/New Business

# Discussing Returning Citizen Unemployment

# What else can be done to alleviate unemployment?

# How can we take an extra step to ensure that returning citizens stop getting the door slammed when it comes to background checks?

# Discussing Ban the Box and the technicalities that go with employers taking away the offers that were given to returning citizens.

# Ensuring that ban the box is enforced.

# Director Ferguson discussed that is already in place in the form of the fines that employers get if they are found in violation of ban the box.

# How can returning citizens navigate the legal aspect of a complaint?

# Education on ban the box to the community

# Talk about mobilization, proposing an action item.

# Commissioner Bullock and Commissioner Porter mentioned incentivize the public employers who are hiring returning citizens.

# Commissioner Porter mentioned that the commission should set up a meeting with the chamber of commerce to see what can be done for private employers.

# Additionally, meet with the HR departments of private corporations to see what the barriers that they have to hiring returning citizens

# Chairman Lewis, mentioned that Baltimore (John Hopkins) has a program (turn around Tuesday) that cannot be reproduced in DC. But if it could would be beneficial to the community.

# In line with unemployment discussed the possibility of expunging the records of individuals.

# Have a “DC does” brand that shows support to the returning citizens.

# Commission needs to mobilize more. Figuring out a way to get the government to also give contracts to companies that are hiring returning citizen.

# Commissioner Washington mentioned that he knows of contracts being written in such a way that it states that you must partner with certain individuals to be awarded the contract.

# What is the most ambitious thing that the city can do to accommodate the returning citizens- tax credits, expunging their records?

# The barriers have been identified. There needs to be something more to be done, actionable items.

# Commissioner Sanders, read out the action items. Meet with Chamber of Commerce, Follow up with Grosso and his bill, proposing the district has tax credit and incentive to companies that are hiring returning citizens, educate the public about the different incentives and options available to them.

# Proposing to set up a meeting with the chamber of commerce to make the propose the changes.

# Chairman Lewish suggested doing a letter or a whitepaper; to give the Mayor and address it as a Public Safety emergency with this population not working.

# Have the city pledge 100 jobs to the returning citizens.

# Commissioner Porter proposes that a town hall be set up at least twice a year to speak about the different things that are happening and what is being proposed. The conversation would be with the business community. DSLBD and DOES.

# Commissioner Washington, he discussed that there are CBEs requirements; and the points and possibly including returning citizens as part of the point system.

# Director Hines, introduces herself and mentioned that the commission should be effective and efficient with their discussions. She mentioned that the way to make things effective. It would be good to be precise on actionable items and that filters through Director Ferguson and then Director Hines and she takes that up to the Mayor.

# She mentions that we need to look up things and be able to research items to develop action plans.

# She mentioned that the Mayor believes in second chances. And that she has been doing a lot of work for the returning citizens.

# Possible recommendation letter, roundtable, weigh in on the legislation.

# Meeting Concluded (7:45 pm)

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