

CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 25-0018R
(Resolution)

Introduced by: Councilmember Torrence

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Middleton, Gray, Bullock, Porter,
Blanchard, Jones, Ramos, Schleifer, and Glover, and President Cohen

Introduced and adopted: April 28, 2025

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Celebrating Second Chance Month

FOR the purpose of recognizing April as Second Chance Month in Baltimore City; encouraging City agencies, employers, community organizations, and residents to support efforts that eliminate barriers to individuals reentering the community following incarceration and to promote the full inclusion of returning citizens in all aspects of society.

Recitals

WHEREAS, each year, thousands of individuals return to Baltimore City from incarceration, seeking opportunities to rebuild their lives, contribute towards the well-being of their families, and strengthen their communities.

WHEREAS, individuals with criminal records face significant barriers to employment, housing, education, and civic engagement, which often hinders their successful reintegration into the City.

WHEREAS, the City of Baltimore recognizes that providing second chances to returning citizens promotes public safety, economic growth, and family stability, while also reducing recidivism and strengthening neighborhoods.

WHEREAS, the federal government, advocacy organizations, faith communities, and local governments across the country recognize April as Second Chance Month, a time to raise awareness about the challenges faced by returning citizens and to promote policies and programs that remove barriers to successful reentry.

WHEREAS, Baltimore City has taken significant steps toward improving reentry opportunities, including the establishment of the Office of Returning Citizens, investments in job training and workforce development programs, and legislative efforts to reduce discrimination against individuals with past convictions.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

Council Bill 25-0018R

1 **WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that successful reentry requires holistic supports – including
2 stable housing, employment, family unification, and access to mental and physical health care –
3 to ensure that returning citizens can rebuild their lives and contribute meaningfully to their
4 communities.

5 **WHEREAS**, supporting Second Chance Month aligns with the City’s ongoing commitment to
6 criminal justice reform, racial equity, and inclusive economic development.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the City
8 Council recognizes April as Second Chance Month in Baltimore City and encourages City
9 agencies, employers, community organizations, and residents to support efforts that eliminate
10 barriers to individuals reentering the community following incarceration and to promote the full
11 inclusion of returning citizens in all aspects of society.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
13 Director of the Office of Returning Citizens, the Baltimore City Delegation to the Maryland
14 General Assembly, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.