

**Commission for Re-entry and Returning Citizen Affairs**  
June 24, 2024 - This meeting was cancelled.

**Commission for Re-entry and Returning Citizen Affairs**  
**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**Agenda**

- 1. Opening Remarks - Chair Dasher**
- 2. Town Halls - MORCA**
- 3. Discussion on legislation for re-entry housing - All Commissioners**
- 4. MORCA Update**
- 5. Open Floor/Closing**

**NOTES**

Chairwoman asked for updates on subcommittees.

Commissioner Moon awaiting responses from contacts on housing updates

Chairwoman spoke to gathering ideas from townhalls to propose legislation.

Dir. Carey gave MORCA updates on service provided and needed date confirmation if using DGS as one of the townhall spaces. Also, spoke on Keeping It Reel upcoming event

**Commission for Re-entry and Returning Citizen Affair**  
Thursday, April 18, 2024

**Agenda**

- 1. Opening Remarks - Chair Dasher**
- 2. Meetings - VOTE REQUIRED**
- 3. Town Halls - VOTE REQUIRED**
- 4. Subcommittee on Violence/Youth - Commissioner Rick Jarvis**
- 5. Subcommittee on Housing - Commissioner Larry Moons**
- 6. Subcommittee on Women/Children - Commissioner Dasher**
- 7. Subcommittee on Legislative/Compliance - Commissioner Berry**
- 8. MORCA Update**
- 9. Open Floor/Closing**

**Meeting Note Summary**

Chairwoman Dasher expressing the importance of spending down the allotted money this year. Chairwoman asked Commissioners on their anything they wanted to add about venue locations and confirming how many townhalls and proposed dates

Commissioner Jarvis spoke to conversations he had with two of the young men he work with and the danger in their communities. He is desperate and feels defeated on remedies for the young people in his community dealing with gun violence.

Commissioner Moon spoke with a contact regarding receiving information.

Commissioner Dash spoke to the overall creating opportunities for women.

Commissioner Berry spoke to how ideas from the townhall can lead to potential legislation.

Dir. Carey mentioned thinking about promoting the townhalls and if flyers will be needed.

## **Commission for Re-entry and Returning Citizen Affairs**

March 21, 2024

### Agenda

1. Town Hall
2. Subcommittee on Women/Children
3. Subcommittee on Housing
4. Subcommittee on Youth
5. Second Chance Month
6. Commission Recruitment
7. MORCA Update
8. Closing\

### Meeting notes:

**Chairwoman** spoke to a collective effort to reach out to ex-officios and quality people that we can have on the board

**Commissioners** recommending reaching out to leadership within the agencies to speak to the mandate that a representative is required to be on the board.

**Chairwoman** wants to focus the townhall on having meaningful conversations that are inclusive of the subcommittees. This will allow committees to incorporate in their plans and possibly recruit support. **Voter** Registration Drive. Guest Andrienne cant attend events in morning.

Commissioner Moon UPO revamping their housing workshops. DC Dollars are not available for transitional housing. Mendelson reintroducing money for housing.

## **Commission for Re-entry and Returning Citizen Affairs**

Thursday, February 8th, 2024

6:30pm-7:30pm

### **Agenda**

Call to Order - Chair Dasher

Review of Performance Oversight - Chair Dasher

Town Halls - Commissioners

Committee on Violence/Youth - Commissioner Rick Jarvis

Committee on Housing - Commissioner Larry Moon

DOES update - Commissioner DeCarlo Washington

Clean Slate Act - Corey Knight

MORCA Update - MORCA Rep/Director

Closing - Chair Dasher

Chairwoman the focus would be on preparing for the hearing.

Commissioner Jarvis had no new updates

Commissioner Moon will have update by next meeting

Director Carey provided update on MORCA services and planning for Returning Citizens

Cookout

## **Commission on Reentry and Returning Citizens Affairs- Closed Meeting**

December 14, 2023, 6:30pm.

### **Agenda**

1. Opening - Chair Dasher
2. Meeting Locations Discussion
3. Commission Vacancies
4. Ex-Officio Engagement
5. Review of Subcommittee Legislative Recommendations
6. MORCA Updates
7. Open Floor
8. Closing

### **Meeting Notes:**

**Guest C. Knight** recommended Anacostia Art Center to hold meetings. **Chairwoman** spoke to Martha's table hosting. **Guest Adrienne Shaw** spoke to having to attend 3 mgts. Chairwoman suggest reaching out to 3 ex-officios. **Chairwoman** presented a subcommittee chart. **Commissioner Jarvis** spoke to new crime build creating more arrest. Dir. Carey spoke to holiday toy giveaway.

## **Commission on Reentry and Returning Citizens Affairs- Closed Meeting**

The November 2023 Commission meeting was cancelled.

## **Commission on Reentry and Returning Citizens Affairs**

Oct 12, 2023

**Chairwoman** discuss disappointment not being cleared to travel to Puerto Rico for a conference.

**Dir Oper. Seide** explained allowable cost.

Commissioner Calloway spoke to it not being allowed

**Dir. Carey** expressed concerned that it was not discussed with commission

**Chairwoman** expressed she can make the decision.

**Commissioners** expressed they weren't aware of the conference

Chairwoman discussed contacting Council-member White



### **Commission on Reentry and Returning Citizens Affairs- Closed Meeting**

This is a reminder the monthly Commission meeting will be Thursday, January 11th, 2023, 6:30pm-7:30pm. This meeting will be held virtually and is closed to ALL except for voting Commissioners. THIS MEETING IS MANDATORY for all Commissioners. We will be preparing for Oversight.

Meeting Notes: MORCA team was denied entry. Did not receive update on minutes.

**District of Columbia Commission on Re-entry**

**Rules of Procedure**

**Adopted August 16, 2012  
pursuant to DC CODE §24-1303(b)(6)**

**Organization**

Article 1 – Name and Purpose.....	1
Article 2 – Officers and Duties.....	1
Article 3 – Non-voting Members.....	2
Article 4 – Meetings.....	3
Article 5 – Conduct of Meetings.....	4
Article 6 – Quorum.....	5
Article 7 – Votes.....	5
Article 8 – Records of Meetings.....	5
Article 9 – Attendance.....	6
Article 10 – Amendment of By-laws.....	6

**Article 1 – Name and Purpose**

**Section 1 – Name**

The name of the Commission on Re-entry is the Commission on Re-Entry and Returning Citizen Affairs of Washington, DC (hereinafter “Commission”).

**Section 2 – Purpose**

The Commission is established by §24-1303 of the District of Columbia Code, and shall carry out the duties enumerated therein. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the Director of the District of Columbia Office on Returning Citizen Affairs on the process, issues, and consequences of the reintegration of returning citizens into the general population.

**Article 2 – Officers and Duties**

**Section 1 – Officers**

The Officers of the Commission shall be the Chairperson, the Co-chairperson, and the Secretary. The Mayor shall appoint the Chairperson (DC Code §24-1303(b)(4)). The other Co-chairperson and the Secretary shall be elected by a majority of the Commission to one year renewable terms.

## **Section 2 -- Duties of Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall perform the following duties:

- a. Preside at public meetings of the Commission;
- b. Preside at all other meetings called by the Commission, or designate the Co-chairperson or any other Commissioner to preside;
- c. Serve as spokesperson for the Commission on all matters, or designate the Co-chairperson or another Commissioner to serve in that capacity;
- d. Recommend to the Mayor dismissal of any Commissioner who failed to attend three (3) consecutive public meetings, unless in the opinion of the Chairperson there is good cause for the failure to attend;
- e. Appoint subcommittees as determined by the Commission; and
- f. Perform other duties of the Commission as the Commission may delegate.

## **Section 3 -- Duties of Co-chairperson**

The Co-chairperson shall act as Chairperson when the Chairperson is absent, or when requested by the Chairperson, and shall perform other duties assigned by the Chairperson or the Commission.

## **Section 4 -- Duties of the Secretary**

The Secretary shall perform the following duties:

- a. Oversee the recording of the minutes of Commission meetings and submit the minutes to the Commission for approval;
- b. Call the roll at all public or special meetings of the Commission;
- c. Announce that a quorum is or is not present;
- d. Maintain a physical and electronic copy of the public record of the Commission (See Article 9).
- e. Perform such ministerial and other duties assigned by the Chairperson.

## **Article 3 -- Non-voting Members**

### **Section 1 -- The Director of the Office on Returning Citizen Affairs**

The Director of the Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (hereinafter "Director"), or his or her designee, is a non-voting member of the Commission. The Director, or his or her designee, shall:

- a. Arrange for space to be provided by the District of Columbia Government to hold public meetings of the Commission;

- b. Assist the Commission in issuing timely notices to the public of monthly public meetings;
- c. Attend the monthly public meetings of the Commission;
- d. Report at the monthly public meetings about the activities and issues relating to the Office on Returning Citizen Affairs; and
- e. Maintain a physical and electronic copy of the public record of the Commission (See Article 9).

## **Article 4 - Meetings**

### **Section 1 – Public meetings**

Public meetings of the Commission shall be held monthly (DC Code §24-1303(b)(7)). The meetings shall be held in space provided by the District of Columbia Government and shall be open to the public (DC Code §24-1303(b)(7)).

### **Section 2 – Notice of public meetings**

The notices and agendas of all public meetings shall be posted not less than 48 hours, or two (2) business days, whichever is greater, before the meeting. (DC Code §2-516(1)) Meeting notices and agendas shall be posted on the websites of the Office on Returning Citizen Affairs and/or the District of Columbia Government and be available at the public meeting site. (DC Code §2-516(2)) Agendas and notices shall be e-mailed to each Commissioner seven (7) calendar days prior to the public meeting.

### **Section 3 – Closed meetings; notice**

By affirmative vote of a majority of Commissioners (DC Code §2-575(c)(1)), the Commission may schedule or hold a closed executive session to discuss personnel or other matters of a private or confidential nature, as provided in DC Code §2-575(b). No action may be taken in executive session and no records shall be kept of the session other than a record of the vote to schedule or hold the session.

### **Section 4 – Cancellation of meetings**

The Chairperson may cancel a meeting if she or he determines or is informed that a quorum of the Commission will not be present. Notices of the cancellation shall be posted on the web site of the Office on Returning Citizen Affairs and at the meeting site. Notices of meeting cancellations shall be e-mailed to all members of the Commission and to all members of the public who have requested to receive notices and agendas of Commission meetings.

## **Article 5 – Conduct of Meetings**

### **Section 1 – Agenda**

The Chairperson shall:

- a. Determine the order of business at meetings;
- b. Prepare an agenda for each public meeting of the Commission; and
- c. Distribute the proposed agenda to the Commissioners no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the date of the scheduled meeting.

The agenda for public meetings shall an item:

- a. During which Commission members may request items for the Commission to include at future meetings; and
- b. Permitting public comment.

### **Section 2 – Discussion**

When a member of the Commission desires to address the Commission, he or she shall seek recognition by addressing the Chairperson, and when recognized, shall proceed to speak. The Commissioner shall confine his or her comments or remarks to the question before the Commission.

### **Section 3 – Public comment**

The Commission shall hold meetings open to the public in full compliance with District of Columbia laws and regulations. The Commission encourages the participation of all interested persons. Members of the public may address the Commission on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission for up to three (3) minutes during public comment. The Chairperson may limit or extend the time permitted for public comment.

### **Section 4 – Electronic devices**

Cell phones shall be turned off during meetings of the Commission. The Chairperson may issue a warning to any member of the public whose cell phone disrupts the Commission meeting. In the event of repeated disruptions caused by cell phones, the Chairperson shall direct the offending member of the public to leave the meeting.

Text messaging or use of other personal electronic communication devices during meetings is prohibited.

### **Section 5 – Rules of order**

The Chairperson shall decide all questions of order at all meetings, subject to an appeal to the Commission.

Matters not covered in this Article or other District of Columbia laws or regulations may be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

### **Article 6 – Quorum**

A quorum to transact business shall consist of a majority, plus one, of the voting members (DC Code §24-1303(b)(7)). A voting member is a member of the public who has been appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by the DC Council and then sworn-in by the Mayor or his or her designee.

If a quorum is not present, a meeting may commence for the consideration of matters not requiring a vote if six (6) Commissioners are present.

### **Article 7 – Votes**

Commissioners must be present to vote and participate. To be present, Commissioners must participate by any means of communication through which all Commissioners participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. Voting or participation by proxy is not permitted.

No person may vote on Commission matters unless that person is a current member of the Commission.

A motion to reconsider a vote may be made at the same meeting at which the vote was taken or, if otherwise in order, at the next meeting, by any Commissioner who voted with the prevailing side of a question.

Commissioners that have a conflict of interest in the discussion and vote are permitted to abstain.

The Commission can vote on items by roll call, voice vote, or by show of hands. The minutes shall reflect how each Commissioner voted on each item.

### **Article 8 – Records of Meetings**

#### **Section 1 – Minutes**

Minutes shall be taken at every public meeting of the Commission.

Public meetings may be recorded only for purposes of preparing the minutes.

Copies of the minutes shall be distributed to each Commissioner at the next public meeting of the Commission.

The minutes shall be approved by majority vote of the Commission at the next public meeting.

## **Section 2 – Public review file**

The Office on Returning Citizen Affairs shall maintain the public record of Commission meetings for public review. The public record shall contain:

- a. Meeting notices;
- b. Meeting agendas;
- c. Meeting minutes; and
- d. Other materials attached to the agenda.

## **Section 3 – Records retention policy**

The Office on Returning Citizen Affairs shall retain Commission records in accordance with the records retention and destruction policies of the District of Columbia Government.

## **Article 9 – Attendance**

Commissioners are expected to:

- a. Attend monthly public meetings and other meetings as determined by the Commission; and
- b. Notify the Chairperson of their attendance after receiving a meeting notification and state a reason if he or she is not able to attend.

Commissioners who fail to attend three (3) consecutive public meetings may be recommended by the Chairperson for dismissal, unless in the opinion of the Chairperson there is good cause for the failure to attend.

Commissioners are permitted to attend public meetings by teleconference, as provided in Article 8, and provided sufficient resources are available to do so.

## **Article 10 – Amendment of By-laws**

The By-laws of the Commission may be amended by a vote of the majority of the Commissioners present and voting after presentation of the proposed amendments as an agenda item at a meeting of the Commission. The Commission shall give ten (10) days notice before considering any amendments to its by-laws.

OFFICE OF RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS (RCO)

FY 2025 Schedule A

As of 01/27/2025

Vacancy Status	LOCAL	TOTAL
Filled	13.00	13.00
Vacant	6.00	6.00
Total	19.00	19.00

Agency	Fund Code	Fund Type	Agency Fund	Agency Fund Detail	Program Code	Cost Center	Cost Center Title	Project Number	Award	Task Number	Position Number	Name	Title	Grade	Step	Salary	Fringe - 23.9%	Total	Hire Date	Length of Time with Agency. In Years and Months (as of 01/14/25)	Position Status	Vacancy Status	FTE x Dist %	Reg / Temp / Term
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00091374	Scott,Sharon R	Administrative Specialist (Int	4	0	62,751	14,997	77,748	1/13/2025	0 years 0 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00091375	Carey,Lamont	Director	E1	0	124,368	29,724	154,092	10/15/2019	5 years 3 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00091376	Wise,Darryl	Workforce Dev Spec Manager	5	0	73,675	17,608	91,283	2/27/2023	1 years 10 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00091377	Lopez,Enrique	Workforce Development Speciali	4	0	73,675	17,608	91,283	8/26/2024	0 years 4 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00094127	Huff,LaRoya	Case Manager	5	0	76,880	18,374	95,255	2/2/2018	6 years 11 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00097019	Harris,Bobby P	Outreach & Service Specialist	5	0	69,480	16,606	86,085	4/22/2019	5 years 8 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00099774	Seide,Jordyn P	Director of Operations	6	0	100,309	23,974	124,283	11/12/2019	5 years 2 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00099775	Jackson,Alicia D.	Case Manager	5	0	76,880	18,374	95,255	2/16/2016	8 years 11 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00099986	Davis,Marcia R	Supervisory Case Manager	6	0	91,035	21,757	112,792	6/17/2024	0 years 7 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00102642	Maunga,Sylvie Mbanga	Supvy Outreach & Svcs Spec	6	0	89,000	21,271	110,271	6/6/2022	2 years 7 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00105526	Hurley,Julian W	Community Outreach Specialist	4	0	62,751	14,997	77,748	1/13/2025	0 years 0 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00105527	Jackson,Micheal D	Community Outreach Specialist	11	4	71,579	17,107	88,686	11/15/2021	3 years 2 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Term
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00105529	Lawson,William T.	Community Outreach Specialist	11	4	71,579	17,107	88,686	11/15/2021	3 years 2 months	Active	Filled	1.0	Term
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00075344		Outreach & Service Specialist	5	0	83,201	19,885	103,085			Active	Vacant	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00094128		Case Manager	5	0	83,201	19,885	103,085			Active	Vacant	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00099778		Program Support Specialist	11	0	65,285	15,603	80,888			Active	Vacant	1.0	Reg
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00105525		Community Outreach Specialist	4	0	74,882	17,897	92,779			Active	Vacant	1.0	Term
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00105528		Community Outreach Specialist	11	0	65,285	15,603	80,888			Active	Vacant	1.0	Term
RCO	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	1010001	LOCAL FUNDS	800184	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS				00105621		Supvy Outreach & Svcs Spec	6	0	94,850	22,669	117,519			Active	Vacant	1.0	Reg



**OFFICE OF RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS (RC0)  
FY 2025 OVERTIME EARNINGS BY EMPLOYEE - TOP 25**

Agency Code	Fiscal Year	Fund	Program Number	Cost Center	Employee Name	Position Number	Position Title	Salary	Fringe	Overtime Pay
AGENCY GRAND TOTAL								\$0	\$0	\$0

**OFFICE OF RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS (RC0)  
FY 2024 OVERTIME EARNINGS BY EMPLOYEE - TOP 25**

0.2294

Agency Code	Fiscal Year	Fund	Program Number	Cost Center	Employee Name	Position Number	Position Title	Salary	Fringe (.2294)	Overtime Pay
RC0	24	1010001	800184	80256	Bass,Camron	00075344	Outreach & Service Specialist	69,480	15,939	1,420
RC0	24	1010001	800184	80256	Davis,Marcia R	00099986	Supervisory Case Manager	91,035	20,883	744
RC0	24	1010001	800184	80256	Jackson,Alicia D.	00099775	Case Manager	76,880	17,636	388
RC0	24	1010001	800184	80256	Maunga,Sylvie Mbanga	00102642	Supvy Outreach & Svcs Spec	89,000	20,417	342
RC0	24	1010001	800184	80256	Reed,Richard Lee	00091377	Workforce Development Speciali	73,675	16,901	213
RC0	24	1010001	800184	80256	Taylor,Ciara	00094128	Case Manager	75,744	17,376	218
RC0	24	1010001	800184	80256	Wise,Darryl	00091376	Workforce Dev Spec Manager	73,675	16,901	319
RC0	24	4015918	800184	80256	Kelley,Phillip	00105525	Community Outreach Specialist	69,481	15,939	729
RC0	24	4015918	800184	80256	Moore,Joyce	00105621	Supvy Outreach & Svcs Spec	85,791	19,681	433
AGENCY GRAND TOTAL								704,762	161,672	4,806

**FY 2024 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) - BUYER SUMMARY**

Office of Returning Citizens

SELLING AGENCY	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	AMOUNT	FUND	Start Date	End Date
AM0 DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES	Computer Lab Refreshing	28,500	LOCAL	10/1/2023	9/30/2024
CF0 DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	Paralegal fellowship program	497,000	LOCAL	10/1/2023	9/30/2024
AT0 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	Single Audit	3,640	LOCAL	10/1/2023	9/30/2024
AS0 OFFICE OF FINANCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	Non-DC NET Services	120	LOCAL	10/1/2023	9/30/2024
KT0 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	Fleet Services	11,531	LOCAL	10/1/2023	9/30/2024
TOTAL		\$540,791			

**FY 2024 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) - SELLER SUMMARY**

Office of Returning Citizens

BUYER AGENCY	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	AMOUNT	FUND	Start Date	End Date
JA0 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	Provide employment and case management services to participants, defined as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	576,373	FEDERAL GRANTS	10/1/2023	9/30/2024
TOTAL		\$576,373			

**FY 2025 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) - BUYER SUMMARY**

Office of Returning Citizens

SELLING AGENCY	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	AMOUNT	FUND	Start Date	End Date
CF0 DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES	Paralegal Fellowship Program	419,307	LOCAL	10/1/2024	9/30/2025
TO0 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER	DCNET	500	LOCAL	10/1/2024	9/30/2025
AS0 OFFICE OF FINANCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	Non DCNET - TELECOM	500	LOCAL	10/1/2024	9/30/2025
TO0 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER	OCTO IT Assessment	1,502	LOCAL	10/1/2024	9/30/2025
KT0 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	Fleet management	6,055	LOCAL	10/1/2024	9/30/2025
TOTAL		\$427,864			

**FY 2025 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) - SELLER SUMMARY**

Office of Returning Citizens

BUYER AGENCY	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES PROVIDED	AMOUNT	FUND	Start Date	End Date
JA0 DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	Provide employment and case management services to participants, defined as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	1,095,636	FEDERAL GRANTS	10/1/2024	9/30/2025
TOTAL		\$ 1,095,636			

OFFICE OF RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS (RC0)  
FY 2024  
Approved and Revised Operating Budgets  
and  
Actual Year-To-Date Expenditures  
(as of 01/31/25 )

Fund	Program	Program Title	Cost Center	Cost Center Title	FY 2024 Approved Budget	FY 2024 Revised Budget	FY 2024 Year-To-Date Actual Expenditures	FY 2024 Year-To-Date Actual Expenditures as a % of Revised Budget	FY 2024 Under / Over Spending	Comments
1010	800184	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS	2,262,609	2,062,609	1,712,270	83%	350,339	
4015	800184	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS	80256	RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS	616,800	458,993	458,993	100%	0	
TOTAL FY 2023					\$2,879,409	\$2,521,602	\$2,171,263	86%	\$350,339	

OFFICE OF RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS (RCO)						
FY 2024 REPROGRAMMING LIST						
FISCAL YEAR	FUND	DATE	REPROGRAMMING #	DESCRIPTION	ORIGINAL PURPOSE	AMOUNT
2024	1010001-Local	8/27/2024	Reprogramming 30	Securing funding to sustain MORCA's impactful action	714100C-GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & GRANTS	216,939
2024	1010001-Local	8/27/2024	Reprogramming 30	Securing funding to sustain MORCA's impactful action	701400C-FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	-58,419
2024	1010001-Local	8/27/2024	Reprogramming 30	Securing funding to sustain MORCA's impactful action	701100C-CONTINUING FULL TIME	-158,520
2024	1010001-Local	9/30/2024	Reprogramming 164	PSJC- Offset District wide Deficit	714100C-GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & GRANTS	-50,000
2024	1010001-Local	9/30/2024	Reprogramming 164	PSJC- Offset District wide Deficit	701400C-FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	-30,000
2024	1010001-Local	9/30/2024	Reprogramming 164	PSJC- Offset District wide Deficit	701100C-CONTINUING FULL TIME	-120,000
2024	4015918-ARPA			Mid-year Reduction	701200C-CONTINUING FULL TIME - OTHERS	-19,978
TOTAL						-\$219,978

Mayor Muriel Bowser and  
the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizens Affairs Present






# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

MORCA's Workforce Development Program assists clients with creating a pathway to a career. Our Workforce Development Team will connect clients to employment opportunities, job readiness programs and certified vocational and career-oriented apprenticeship training opportunities.

- GED/HS Diploma
- CDL Class B Training
- Apprenticeships/Career-Oriented Vocational Training Programs (Culinary Arts, HVAC, IT)
- Access to DC Networks
- Direct Employment Assistance
- Resume Help & Development

Call **202-715-7670** TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT  
WITH ONE OF OUR CASE MANAGERS.  
WALK-INS ARE WELCOME **MONDAY-THURSDAY** FROM **9AM-3PM**

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS  
2100 MARTIN LUTHER KING AVENUE, SE SUITE 100 WASHINGTON, DC 20020

 Facebook: ORCADC  
 Twitter: @ORCA\_DC  
 Instagram: @ORCA\_DC



 **WE ARE  
WASHINGTON**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR**

# THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON RETURNING CITIZENS AFFAIRS

# RETURNING CITIZENS

# CAN ✓ VOTE

## IN WASHINGTON, DC

Eligible DC residents convicted of a crime can vote without requiring permission from a judge, parole officer or anyone else. Simply be 18 or turning 18 by the next general election, a DC resident for 30 days, and not claiming residence elsewhere. Yes, even if incarcerated! **Register to vote and fulfill your civic duty.**

### Here are some reasons **WHY** you should vote:

Many services exist in the District because the city voted to elect representatives who believe in changing lives. When you don't vote, the candidates who believe you should have a **REAL** second chance, may not have the opportunity to advocate for your values.

### More Reasons

- ✓ MORCA's assistance with birth certificates, IDs, and more – thanks to voting.
- ✓ Governmental agency services like DOES' Project Employment and DSLBD's programs – results of voting.
- ✓ Release due to IRAA, Second Look, Compassionate Release, or The First Step Act – enabled by voting.
- ✓ Non-profit grants for Re-Entry services – influenced by voting.
- ✓ Improved conditions for parents – vote for better housing, healthcare, and opportunities.
- ✓ Enhance your children's education and future opportunities – vote.
- ✓ Remove barriers due to convictions – empower yourself through voting.

**Request a voter registration form at MORCA, DOC, or FBOP.**

**Write/email the DC Board of Elections for a mailed form:**

**1015 Half Street, Suite #750, Washington, DC 20003**

**Email: [outreachspecialist@dcboe.org](mailto:outreachspecialist@dcboe.org).**

## Exercise your right – **VOTE!**

# THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS RETURNING CITIZENS OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED AMENDMENT ACT VITAL DOCUMENT FEE WAIVER

Returning Citizens Opportunity to Succeed Amendment Act took effect on October 1st, 2018.

**This bill waives fees for certificate of birth (District-born residents), motor vehicle operator's permit, learner's permit, and Non-Driver Identification for returning citizens released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons within the last 12 months.**

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Visit the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) for eligibility determination and to receive a fee waiver form.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a DC Resident
- Must have been released from the Federal Bureau of Prisons within the last 12 months.

## FEES WAIVED FOR:

- Birth Certificates (District-born)
- Identification Cards
- Learner's Permits
- Driver Licenses

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS

2100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE  
Washington D.C. 20020  
(Near Anacostia Metro Station)

**Phone:** 202.715.7670

**Email:** [orca@dc.gov](mailto:orca@dc.gov)





Mayor Muriel Bowser and  
the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs Present

# PEER NAVIGATOR SERVICES

MORCA IN THE COMMUNITY!

USE THE EXTRA SUPPORT WITH A  
MORCA PEER NAVIGATOR



What is a Peer  
Navigator?

The Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) Peer Navigators are individuals that have successfully transitioned with the reentry process and are here to guide others on a path to reintegrate back into the community. The Peer Navigator's goal is support returning citizens through their journey by connecting them to referrals and providing them opportunities to take advantage of services in the District of Columbia that will aid in their successful reentry.

## How this is done:

- Peer Navigators will support Returning Citizens who receive case management to assure they have successfully connected with referrals provided.
- Track the progress, eliminating barriers and goal accomplishments.
- Encourage and support client through problem solving, accountability and guidance. These can be internal and external barriers.
- Encourage independency by allowing clients to take ownership of every accomplishment.

**ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE AFTER COMPLETING A MORCA INTAKE WITH A REENTRY CASE MANAGER.**

Facebook: ORCADC  
Twitter: @ORCA\_DC  
Instagram: @ORCA\_DC  
Call Us: (202) 715-7670

2100 Martin Luther King Jr.  
Avenue, SE, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20020  
Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR



## What is MORCA?

The Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) provides information, support, and services to returning citizens. MORCA's mission is to empower returning citizens to realize their full potential - as individuals, as family members, and as residents of the community. Our doors are always open for people who may need a little extra help to get back on their feet.

### Outreach

MORCA is here to serve as a resource and a guide for returning citizens. We work with local organizations - like shelters, halfway houses, court agencies and community-based organizations - to identify returning residents who may need some assistance.

### Connecting Residents With Services

Returning citizens have access to a lot of government services, but they may not know it. MORCA works with individuals to assess their needs and figure out what kind of support they may need. With that assessment in hand, MORCA then connects those individuals with agencies that can help them - whether that means finding an affordable place to live, getting trained for employment, connecting to mental health services, or something else.

### Educating the Public

Unfortunately, there are a lot of stereotypes and myths about returning citizens. It is no secret that the stigma of incarceration leads to barriers to employment, housing, and educational and training opportunities that make it harder for citizens to return to society. MORCA works to break those stereotypes by educating employers, landlords, and the general public about challenges that returning citizens face. And MORCA works with these groups to help them better understand the many strengths that returning citizens bring with them.



# REENTRY CASE MANAGEMENT

MORCA case management provides our constituents with ongoing support with their reintegration into the community. In order to help identify needs and supportive services, the case managers provide the following:

- Complete a Needs Assessment with constituents and develop an Individual Service Plan that identifies needs connects constituents to resources to meet the specific goals they want to achieve.
- Work with individuals on eliminating barriers such as connecting with mental health services providers, seeking housing options, clothing, and job preparation assistance.
- Case manager assistance with referrals and recommendations related to reentry goal achievement as needed.

HELP

GUIDANCE

SUPPORT

**CALL 202.715.7670 TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH ONE OF OUR CASE MANAGERS**

**WALK-INS ARE WELCOME MONDAY - THURSDAY FROM 10AM - 3PM**

**THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON  
RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS**

2100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

WE ARE  
WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR**



### MORCA's Support for Women's Reentry

Women are the fastest growing group of incarcerated persons in the United States. With this in mind, MORCA has identified gender specific support services for women re-entrants in the District. In addition to connection to these District services, MORCA also provides family reunification activities, social support services, and gender specific training forums to ensure the opportunity gap that exists for female re-entrants and their male counterparts is not ignored.

### "We are with you every step of the way"

The Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs serves re-entrants by seeking to successfully reintegrate them into the community, help build their lives and empower all of the District's formerly incarcerated persons to become productive members of their families and communities.



"Like all residents in the District, returning citizens deserve a pathway to the middle class. Together, we will make sure they get one."

-Mayor Bowser



### Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs

2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. S.E., Suite 100  
Washington, D.C. 20020

202.715.7670 P • 202.715.7672 F  
[www.orca.dc.gov](http://www.orca.dc.gov)

Please stay connected with us:

ORCADC @ORCA\_DC



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR**



**MORCA**  
MAYOR'S OFFICE ON RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS



2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE  
Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20020



# MORCA

## MAYOR'S OFFICE ON RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS

### What is MORCA?

The Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) is dedicated to providing information, support, advocacy, and connection to services for all of the District's returning citizens. MORCA's goal is to empower returning citizens to realize their full potential- as individuals, as family members, and as residents of the community. Our doors are always open for people who need a little extra help to get back on their feet.

#### Resources at MORCA

##### **Connection to District Resources:**

- Birth Certificate Referrals
- Non Driver's Identification Vouchers
- Voter Registration
- District Resources for Housing, Employment, Clothing, Food, Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services, and more
- Case Management (Including a Needs Assessment & Reentry Case Plan)
- In-house Office Hours for DOES & DBH
- Family Reunification Trips: MORCA provides transportation for no-cost visitation trips that allow DC residents to connect with their incarcerated loved ones.

##### **Training Resources:**

- CDL Class B Training
- Byte Back Computer Skills Training
- Green Construction Training/Certifications (OSHA 10, OSHA 30, Flaggers, CPR/1st Aid)
- DC Central Kitchen Culinary Job Training & Certification

##### **Employment Resources:**

- Email Creation
- Resume Help & Development
- Online Application Assistance
- MORCA has a computer lab that can be utilized as a resource to all of DC's re-entrants.

### What to Do While Still Inside

- **Make sure your release itinerary is correct...** whether transportation or direct release, confirm details with case manager
- **If you plan to collect benefits...** You can apply for SSI and SSDI within 90 days of your release
- **Determine where you will live...** Whether with family, friends, or at a halfway house or an emergency shelter, always ask ahead and receive confirmation from Parole Commission or supervising agency. Terms of release may limit your options.
- **Identify emergency food sources...** Have family, friends, or MORCA identify soup kitchens and food banks near where you will be staying in case they become necessary.
- **Ask for your prison medical records...** Keep them with your list of meds to help new doctors treat you.
- **Keep all release papers and prison ID's...** These papers and your identification will be critical to you upon release and will save you from having to start from scratch.
- **Take advantage of all classes/certifications...** All certifications for trades and skills are extremely useful when looking for employment on the outside.



**MORCA's Computer Lab is open  
from Monday - Friday,  
9:00AM-5:00PM**



### Welcome Home

#### What to do in your first 10 days at home

- Report to your CSO if you are under supervision
- Visit MORCA at 2100 Martin Luther King Ave. SE., Washington D.C. 20020 (Reentry Assessment & Reentry Plan with case management assistance)
- Find immediate housing (Identify transitional housing options)
- Obtain Non-drivers ID, Birth Certificate, Social Security Card
- Locate Clothing Supply Organizations
- Identify Agencies/Organizations With Transportation Assistance
- Identify Emergency Food Sources, if needed Register to Vote
- Identify Classes and Training Programs of Interest

#### What to do in your first 30 days at home

- Sign up for benefits/healthcare
- Get TB test and Physical
- Get mental health assessment and drug counseling (if needed)
- Apply for transitional housing
- Register for certification/Job training programs
- Arrange for child care (OAG office)
- Join a Reentry support group/ identify a reentry mentor
- Create Email Account and Resume
- Engage in intensive Job Search

#### What to do in your first 90 days and beyond

- Arrange for Long term housing
- Apply to College or Training Programs
- Get a criminal background check for your records
- Consult legal aid for expungements and record sealing
- Get credit and financial literacy training/counseling.



# DC INFRASTRUCTURE ACADEMY

DEVELOP THE SKILLS EMPLOYERS SEEK

## ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION AND UTILITY (ECU) PROGRAM

Sponsored by Washington Gas

### PIPELINE INSTALLATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **Pipeline Installation Program** prepares trainees for energy careers focusing on excavation and backfilling, underground clearances, cover-service lines, and prevention of accidental ignition.

Upon completing the program, graduates can explore potential career opportunities as a Service Assistant, Construction Helper, or Mechanic.

**The entry-level annual salary starts at \$46,000** and includes the following benefits:

- Annual salary increases
- Promotion opportunities
- Overtime pay
- Medical, dental, 401K, and defined benefits pension plan

### TRAINING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hands-on training that includes simulated trenching, excavation and backfilling exercises, and fork lift safety and operation
- OSHA 10 & CPR Certifications
- Direct access to industry experts who will provide career pathway insight

**Program Length:** Eight weeks  
**Program Setting:** In-Person Training  
**Program Stipend:** \$17.00/hour (20 hours per week)  
**Program Schedule:** Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

### ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

- ☒ Verified District Resident
- ☒ Minimum of 18 years old
- ☒ Valid DC Learner's Permit or Driver's License
- ☒ High School Diploma or GED
- ☒ CASAS Reading & Math Exam Scores (Reading 235 & Math 225)

*If you are interested in learning more about this program, please send your name and contact information and program of interest to [DCIA@dc.gov](mailto:DCIA@dc.gov).*

#### Acceptable Pre-Employment Checks

- Criminal background
- Driving record history
- Drug screening



Muriel Bowser  
Mayor

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs



Lamont Carey  
Executive Director

---

## MORCA 3 SMART GOALS:

### 1. SMART Goal: Increasing Strategic Partnerships for Enhanced Services

**Specific:** The objective is to enhance partnerships with governmental and community-based organizations, with a specific focus on improving access to transportation services, as well as food, clothing and mental health resources throughout the Fiscal Year 2025.

**Measurable:** Every quarter collaborating with three organizations in each sector,

**Achievable:** At the onset of each quarter, every department will select one government and one community-based organization to either fortify existing partnerships or establish new ones. Progress updates on engagement with these entities will be provided during our Monday calls by each department.

**Relevant:** Strengthening partnerships will provide additional resources, services, and opportunities for returning citizens, aligning with the organization's mission to remove barriers and facilitate their integration into society.

**Time-bound:** The target timeline for achieving this goal is within the next eight months, ensuring a focused and timely effort to establish and enhance partnerships for the benefit of returning citizens.

### 2. SMART Goal: Enhancing Housing Opportunities for Returning Citizens

**Specific:** MORCA aims to facilitate the housing of 60 returning citizens in semi to permanent (Private rentals, subsidies housing, vouchers, inclusionary zoning and home ownership) housing arrangements during Fiscal Year 2025.

**Measurable:** To achieve this, we will conduct a comprehensive landscape analysis of current housing vacancies within our network, actively seeking new housing options to expand our resources.

**Achievable:** Our Case Management, Peer Navigators, and Outreach teams will concentrate on fostering partnerships with existing housing providers and exploring two new housing resources. Additionally, we will initiate community dialogues aimed at alleviating concerns surrounding housing returning citizens.

**Relevant:** This initiative directly supports our mission of eliminating barriers for returning citizens, enhancing their reintegration into society. By ensuring stable housing, we reduce stress levels and increase commitment to participation in training programs and employment opportunities, thereby decreasing recidivism rates.

**Time-bound:** Quarterly, our team will strive to secure semi to permanent housing for 15 returning citizens, maintaining momentum towards our overall goal throughout the fiscal year.

### 3. SMART Goal: Enhancing Employment Opportunities for Returning Citizens

**Specific:** MORCA will strive to facilitate the placement of 150 returning citizens into training programs and 100 into gainful employment quarterly.

**Measurable:** MORCA's Workforce Team and Peer Navigators will actively engage with existing employment partners and establish connections with new partners to enroll 150 returning citizens into training programs and secure 100 employment opportunities.

**Achievable:** Weekly, MORCA's Workforce Team will link with current business partners to assess their job vacancies and suitability for our clients. Additionally, workforce will actively pursue new business partnerships and programs to provide access to 100 employment and 150 training opportunities to clients in FY2025.

**Relevant:** Employment initiatives align closely with our overarching objective of supporting returning citizens in their successful reintegration into society, fostering self-sufficiency, law-abiding behavior, and advancement along a trajectory toward the middle class.

**Time-bound:** In FY25, MORCA's Workforce Team and Peer Navigators will diligently engage new businesses and programs to secure access to employment opportunities for 500 clients and training opportunities for 600 clients this Fiscal Year.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF RETURNING CITIZEN AFFAIRS**



Performance Oversight Hearing

Testimony of  
Lamont Carey  
Executive Director  
Mayor's Office of Returning Citizen Affairs

Before the  
Committee on Housing  
Robert White, Chairperson  
Council of the District of Columbia  
February 6, 2025  
9:30am

Good morning, Chairperson White, members of the committee, staff, members of the public, and my outstanding MORCA team. My name is Lamont Carey. As MORCA's Executive Director, it has been my distinct honor to provide testimony today on behalf of the dedicated staff at the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) and the District's returning citizen community. In FY24, MORCA was able to serve 5,453 returning citizens. This is a testament to the trust and confidence that returning citizens, their families, and our partners have in our efforts. Under my leadership, our team has worked tirelessly to support and connect with returning citizens, whether they were released just two minutes ago or two decades ago. With your continued support, Chairperson White, and under Mayor Bowser's steadfast leadership, MORCA will remain a beacon of hope and a harbor for those seeking a real second chance here in the District of Columbia.

In FY24, MORCA hosted and participated in over 200 events designed to support returning citizens. This included four record-sealing events that helped over 100 individuals engage with partners to help them apply to seal their criminal records and move forward in their lives. In FY25, we continued this work, with more than 50 individuals participating in record sealing events. Our partnership with George Washington University has been transformative. Seventy-five law students are assisting 22 returning citizens in completing their clemency applications. These collaborations help returning citizens navigate complex legal processes and reintegrate into society with the necessary support.

We also collaborated with our DC Government partners to identify qualified candidates for open positions promoted during job fairs. In addition, we hosted internal MORCA job fairs in

partnership with community-based organizations. Through these efforts, our workforce team successfully connected 257 returning citizens with employment opportunities.

While our goal is to help every individual who identifies employment as a key objective, we recognize that returning citizens often face multi-layered challenges when it comes to securing employment. These challenges frequently involve gaps in soft skills, hard skills, and technology proficiency, which we must address before pursuing job placement. However, we are excited to share that 13 returning citizens graduated from the MORCA-Georgetown Paralegal Program in FY24. Thus far in FY25, three grantees from our Access to Jobs program hired 12 returning citizens. I'm also excited to announce that I worked with the Office of Unified Communications Director, Heather McGaffin, to refer three returning citizens to OUC. OUC recently onboarded these three District returning residents who support their 311 Division as Customer Service Representatives. These opportunities are life-changing, enabling individuals to secure stable employment and take their rightful place in the workforce.

MORCA hosted five clothing giveaways in FY24, providing over 100 returning citizens with essential clothing. We also participated in public safety walks across the District, engaging with community members and building strong, supportive relationships. These efforts have allowed us to connect returning citizens to opportunities in employment, training, and public service, ultimately helping to remove barriers to success.

MORCA recognizes the invaluable work of nonprofit organizations, many of which are led by returning citizens themselves. One such organization is the National Reentry Network, which we proudly support through our Access to Jobs grant. This grant has enabled them to hire seven returning citizens, further empowering the community. Additionally, we actively share grant

opportunities from various sources, including the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, and others, ensuring that our partners have the resources they need to expand their work.

MORCA's work is grounded in the belief that helping returning citizens rebuild their lives directly enhances public safety. In FY24, we assisted returning citizens in securing 91 IDs, 27 housing vouchers, 493 training opportunities, 164 referrals to mental health services, and 257 employment placements. We also worked to reconnect returning citizens with their children, which is key to rebuilding families and communities. These efforts build confidence, foster independence, and allow returning citizens to provide for their families, ultimately transforming them into positive, contributing members of society.

A prime example of this is Derrick Lewis of Mute the Violence DC. Derrick, who was released through the IRAA program, has since founded a nonprofit that is having a powerful, positive impact on youth and other returning citizens in the District. His story is just one example of what is possible when returning citizens are given the support and resources they need to succeed.

In FY24, we made it a priority to ensure that returning citizens are not left out of the revitalization of our downtown area. Programs like the MORCA-Georgetown Paralegal Program, the PIVOT Entrepreneur Program, and digital literacy trainings at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library have been instrumental in providing returning citizens with the skills needed to thrive in today's economy. We've also worked to provide tickets to cultural events like Wizards and Capitals games for graduates of these programs, violence interrupters, and credible messengers—individuals who work tirelessly to create safer neighborhoods for all.

A significant portion of the returning citizen population resides East of the River, and we have made it a point to collaborate with organizations in Wards 7 and 8. In Ward 7, we work closely with Blythe and the Marshall Heights Community Development organization that provide training and affordable housing certificates. In Ward 8, we partner with Career Shop DC, which focuses on workforce development and job placement.

Despite the barriers that many returning citizens face in the District, the opportunities far outweigh those challenges, thanks to the leadership of Mayor Muriel Bowser, your support, Chairman White, and the unwavering commitment of our partners and returning citizens themselves. Individuals like Stewart Anderson, Al Malik Farrakhan, and Joe Houston, along with the dedicated staff at MORCA, have demonstrated time and again that with the right support, returning citizens not only succeed, they thrive.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude for the continued support of Mayor Bowser, the Council, the families and friends of returning citizens, and the returning citizens themselves. Together, we are creating a more just, equitable, and thriving District. Thank you for your attention, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Commission on Re-Entry and Returning Citizen Affairs  
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



**Testimony of:  
Reverend Ricardo Sheppard  
Chairman, Commission on Re-Entry and Returning Citizen Affairs**

**Re.  
Fiscal Year 2024 Performance Oversight Hearing**

**Submitted to:  
Chairperson Robert White  
At-Large Councilmember  
Committee on Housing**

**John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004**

**February 6, 2025**

Good afternoon, Chairman White, esteemed members of the Committee on Housing, and all those present. My name is Reverend Ricardo Sheppard, and I have the privilege of serving as the Chairman of the Commission on Reentry and Returning Citizens Affairs. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to testify before you today. It is an honor to lead this Commission and to collaborate with my fellow commissioners as we engage in this critical work on behalf of returning citizens in our community.

It is particularly noteworthy that five of the six current members were just sworn into office on January 31, 2025. However, recognizing the urgency of our work, we convened an informal meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, to begin organizing and strategizing.

During that preliminary discussion, both current Commissioners and Commissioners-elect took the opportunity to review and assess the goals established and pursued by prior Commission members. This reflective process has been instrumental in ensuring continuity while also identifying areas where we can refine and expand our efforts. Once this review and decision-making process is complete, I will be able to

present the Committee with a range of information, including the Commission's priorities for Fiscal Year 2025. I can tell you now, however, that we remain particularly committed to ensuring that the needs of women returning citizens are properly addressed and that they receive the necessary resources and support to successfully reintegrate into society.

Looking ahead, I am eager to work in close partnership with the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA), community organizations, and, most importantly, our returning citizens themselves. Ensuring that their voices are heard and their concerns addressed requires an intentional and proactive approach. To that end, the Commission will actively engage with returning citizens by attending events where they are present, hosting town hall meetings to solicit community input, and fostering open dialogue. Furthermore, we recognize the importance of working collaboratively with our ex-officio members—not by merely asking what they can do for us, but by presenting thoughtful, actionable proposals that reflect a shared commitment to progress.



I look forward to the journey ahead and to the opportunities we will have to make a meaningful impact in the lives of returning citizens. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.