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4 Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr

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9 Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Christina Henderson

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14 Councilmember Doni Crawford



Councilmember Brianne Nadeau

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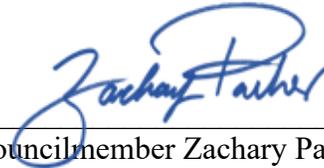
19 Councilmember Brooke Pinto



Councilmember Matthew Frumin

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24 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



Councilmember Zachary Parker

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30 Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Wendell Felder

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35 Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.

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37 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

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41 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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44 To recognize the month of April 2026 as “Second Chance Month” in the District of Columbia
45 and to celebrate the resilience, dignity, and contributions of returning citizens in the
46 District of Columbia.

47 WHEREAS, thousands of District of Columbia residents return to their communities each
48 year after incarceration seeking the opportunity to rebuild their lives, reconnect with their
49 families, and contribute to the city they call home;

50 WHEREAS, returning citizens across the District demonstrate extraordinary resilience
51 and embody diverse roles as parents, workers, neighbors, entrepreneurs, and community
52 leaders—identities that far transcend any past involvement with the criminal legal system;

53 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia affirms that no individual should be forever defined
54 by a label such as “felon” but rather recognized as a full resident entitled to dignity, equal
55 opportunity, and full participation in civic life;

56 WHEREAS, when returning citizens are supported with access to housing, employment,
57 education, health care, and community support, families are strengthened, communities are
58 stabilized, and public safety is enhanced;

59 WHEREAS, despite their determination, many returning citizens continue to face barriers
60 to opportunity that make it more difficult to secure stable housing, meaningful employment, and
61 economic mobility;

62 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has taken meaningful steps to expand second
63 chances through legislation and policy initiatives that seek to remove barriers and create
64 pathways to opportunity for residents returning home from incarceration;

65 WHEREAS, examples of the District’s commitment to expanding second chances include
66 the Second Chance Amendment Act of 2022, which strengthens opportunities for individuals to
67 move forward after involvement with the criminal legal system;

68 WHEREAS, the Council has also advanced policies such as the Access to Jobs
69 Amendment Act of 2020, which expands workforce and training opportunities for returning
70 citizens;

71 WHEREAS, the District has recognized the impact incarceration has on families through
72 legislation such as the Helping Children Impacted by Parental Incarceration Amendment Act of
73 2020, which helps support children and families affected by incarceration;

74 WHEREAS, the Council has further demonstrated its commitment to expanding housing
75 opportunities and reducing barriers to stable housing for returning citizens;

76 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has continued to strengthen support for returning
77 citizens through the expansion of the Office on Returning Citizen Affairs, which works to
78 connect residents returning home from incarceration with employment opportunities, supportive
79 services, and resources that promote successful reintegration into the community;

80 WHEREAS, community organizations, faith leaders, employers, advocates, service
81 providers, and returning citizens themselves work tirelessly across the District of Columbia to
82 support successful reentry through mentorship, workforce development, housing assistance, and
83 community support;

84 WHEREAS, April is recognized nationwide as Second Chance Month, an opportunity to
85 raise awareness about the challenges faced by people returning from incarceration and to
86 celebrate the progress made by those who have worked hard to build new paths forward;

87 WHEREAS, recognizing Second Chance Month affirms the District of Columbia’s belief
88 that people are more than the worst mistake they have made and that every person deserves the
89 opportunity to rebuild their life with dignity, hope, and purpose;

90 WHEREAS, while the District has made meaningful progress, there is still more work to

91 do to ensure that returning citizens have fair access to housing, employment, education, and the
92 opportunity to fully participate in the life of their communities; and

93 WHEREAS, communities, organizations, advocates, and returning citizens in the District
94 of Columbia observe Second Chance Month each April to recognize the resilience of returning
95 citizens and to promote policies that support successful reentry and opportunity.

96 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
97 resolution may be cited as the “Second Chance Month Recognition Resolution of 2026”.

98 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares April 2026, as Second Chance
99 Month in the District of Columbia.

100 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.