

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 160736)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing September 2016 as Inmate Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, According to the Prison Policy Initiative, there are over 2 million incarcerated individuals in the United States. This high rate of incarceration has broken up families across our nation and has cost taxpayers billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, Statistics from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections 2015 end-of-year inmate report indicate that nearly 50,000 individuals are incarcerated in Pennsylvania state prisons; the Philadelphia Prison System incarcerates over 7,000 more individuals, according to its census; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections' 2015 inmate report estimates that nearly 65% of individuals in Pennsylvania prisons are in need of alcohol or drug treatment. This report also indicates that over 80% of incarcerated individuals are "unskilled or possess no [professional] skills." These factors contribute heavily to recidivism and must be mitigated to ensure that inmates are properly rehabilitated for life outside of prison; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2013 Pennsylvania Department of Corrections report, Philadelphia has a 3-year overall recidivism rate of 65.5%, the second highest of any county in the state; and

WHEREAS, The 2013 Pennsylvania Department of Corrections report on recidivism estimated that a 10% reduction in the 1-year recidivism rate would reduce the state's prison population by 475,000 bed-days (roughly 1300 year-round inmates) and save nearly \$45 million annually; and

WHEREAS, Social services for incarcerated and recently-released individuals that focus on job training and other vital social skills have been shown in several studies to reduce the risk of re-incarceration; and

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WHEREAS, Investments in social services that reduce the rate of re-incarceration are not only economically prudent, they are morally incumbent upon any society which strives toward justice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADLEPHIA, Hereby recognizes September 2016 as Inmate Awareness Month.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the eighth of September, 2016.

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Johnson, Henon, Bass, Blackwell, Gym and Green

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Johnson, Henon, Bass, Blackwell, Gym, Green, Jones, Reynolds Brown, Domb, Oh, Squilla, aubenberger, Greenlee, Quiñones Sánchez, O'Neill and Parker