

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	190477	Version:	0	Name:	
Type:	Resolution	Status:		ADOPTED	
File created:	5/23/2019	In control:		CITY COUNCIL	
On agenda:		Final action:		5/23/2019	
Title:	Recognizing June as Reentry Awareness Month in the City of Philadelphia.				
Sponsors:	Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Domb, Councilmember Green, Councilmember Gym, Councilmember Oh, Councilmember Taubenberger, Councilmember Henon, Council President Clarke, Councilmember Greenlee, Councilmember Squilla, Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Quiñones Sánchez, Councilmember Parker, Councilmember O'Neill, Councilmember Blackwell				
Indexes:					
Code sections:					
Attachments:	1. Signature19047700				

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result	Tally
5/23/2019	0	CITY COUNCIL			
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Recognizing June as Reentry Awareness Month in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, An estimated 25,000 people return to Philadelphia from federal, state, and local prisons and jails each year, and there is an estimated population of well over 200,000 returned citizens in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphians returning from jails and prisons experience extremely high rates of recidivism; and high recidivism rates carry devastating consequences for the well-being of impacted individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania there are over 860 consequences of conviction, including legal and regulatory sanctions and restrictions that limit or prohibit people with criminal records from accessing employment, occupational licensing, housing, voting, education, and other opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Individuals returning from incarceration face various difficulties, among them finding housing, accessing medical care and treatment, obtaining loans and credit, accessing higher education, finding employment, and advancing along career pathways; and

WHEREAS, Reentry programs and reentry advocates seek to mitigate these difficulties, with the goal of reducing recidivism and creating more opportunities for returning citizens to thrive; and

WHEREAS, Reduced recidivism allows for community reinvestment and proactive approaches to public safety, resulting in safer and more stable communities; and

WHEREAS, Over 115 agencies and organizations involved in the Philadelphia Reentry Coalition are actively collaborating to reduce recidivism in Philadelphia; and the City is creating a new Office of Reentry Partnerships to elevate and build on existing efforts to improve reentry outcomes in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, the Council of the City of Philadelphia formally recognized June as Reentry Awareness Month in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Reentry Awareness Month is an opportunity for the City of Philadelphia to highlight the achievements and successes of its returning citizens, and to rededicate itself to ensuring that returning citizens are afforded the full rights and opportunities of citizenship; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby celebrates this June as Reentry Awareness Month, and recognizes the accomplishments and achievements of returning citizens across Philadelphia.