

County of Buncombe

Proclamation

Second Chance Month

WHEREAS, nearly all incarcerated individuals will eventually leave prison or jail and return to communities across the state in which approximately 600 citizens returned to Buncombe County from incarceration in state prison in 2022; and

WHEREAS, formerly incarcerated individuals face many hurdles in securing employment, housing, transportation, and health care, made even more challenging during a global health crisis; and

WHEREAS, working with formerly incarcerated people to create opportunities for them to be productive members of society benefits their families and communities in many ways, including improving safety and preventing and reducing crime; and

WHEREAS, efforts are underway at the federal, state, and local levels to establish programs and policies focused on removing the barriers that prevent formerly incarcerated people from pursuing healthy and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the North Carolina General Assembly established the State Reentry Council Collaborative (SRCC) aimed at studying the needs of people reentering their communities and to increase the effectiveness of local reentry councils; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 The Buncombe County Re-entry Council served approximately 220 of returning citizens, with 147 reported securing full-time permanent employment and;

WHEREAS, North Carolina's Reentry Action Plan outlines strategies for supporting and enhancing current reentry initiatives across North Carolina and highlights evidence-based strategies for addressing the challenges faced by justice-involved people and their families; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's investing in Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils, as led to over \$600,000 in Buncombe County community to support 201 at risk youth in FY2022, creating savings in victims', societal, and justice systems costs and;

WHEREAS, nonprofits, faith-based groups, local reentry councils, employers, and educational institutions, among others across North Carolina, play a critical role in providing resources important to successful reentry, and decreasing stigma by raising awareness of the challenges faced by formerly incarcerated people as they reenter the community; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Justice Services is proud to be a partner in offering second chances through its jail diversion and re-entry services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 18th day of April 2023, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 2023 as **Second Chance Month**, a time to recognize the importance of helping individuals, communities, and agencies across the country appreciate their role in supporting the safe and successful reentry of millions of people returning from incarceration each year.