

Mayor's Commission on Reentry Minutes
June 10, 2019

In attendance: John House, Andrea Reese, Jeanette James, Michael Forté, Keith L. Mitchell, Kristin Barker and LaFini Mosby

The meeting was held in the Elections and Registration office, Citizens Services Center, 2nd Floor at 1:30 pm.

LaFini Gilmer Mosby was invited to join the Commission by Jeanette James. She works for the Department of Labor as a DOL Services Specialist assisting employers who are willing to hire reentering adults. Kristin will add LaFini to the official member contact list.

John House called this meeting to discuss recent challenges faced by Commission Chair, Andrea Reese. Additional responsibilities have been added to Andrea's position, and as a result, she is no longer able to manage serving in the Chair position. Following discussion, the Commission elected Keith Mitchell to serve as the new Chair for the Commission on Reentry. Andrea will instead serve in the Vice Chair position.

The Job/Resource Fair discussed on April 22 has been scheduled for July 30, 2019 from 9am-2pm at Friendship Baptist Church, 831 First Avenue, Columbus, GA. New Life Second Chance Outreach, Inc. has been organizing and managing this event and will continue to do so. The Commission would like more information so we are prepared to share information as needed with the community. Keith Mitchell will reach out to Waleisah Wilson for additional information specific to the event and to find out what support is needed.

John House also informed the group that the Sunshine Law in effect will require the Commission on Reentry to make meeting information available to the public. This includes opening meetings up to public attendance. Today, the group is not officially established under the Mayor's Department, so this rule does not yet apply. To become official, the Commission will submit a final mission and purpose statement to the Mayor's office along with official paperwork. The Commission will have an opportunity to approve the final mission before it is submitted. Once approved, the Commission's agenda will need to be uploaded to the Boards & Commissions Website for public access. Jeanette James will make sure the required information is put on the site.

Kristin Barker suggested the Commission select a date to meet monthly through the end of 2019. The group decided to set those meeting dates on the 3rd Monday of each month beginning on July 15, 2019. These meetings will be held in the Elections and Registration office boardroom at the Citizens Services Center at 1:30pm. Kristin will send out calendar invitations for these meetings.

LaFini shared that she has spoken to Mayor Henderson about concerns that new businesses coming to Columbus may not be willing to hire ex-offenders. Mayor Henderson suggested she

speak to the Commission on Reentry. LaFini also shared information about the Federal Bonding Program and how employers who hire reentering adults benefit from this. The Commission agreed that part of our duty is to educate and inform businesses about topics that support reentering adults. We may also become involved with vetting information and making recommendations that support the effort.

Keith requested any final comments and Andrea suggested that housing, particularly for sex offenders, is one of the greatest challenges in our area and needs to be addressed. The meeting was dismissed at this time.

The next meeting will be on July 15, 2019 at 1:30pm.