



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

November 18, 2021

Chicago City Clerk - Council Div.
2021 NOV 18 PM5:04

Anna Valencia
City Clerk
Room 107, City Hall
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Ms. Valencia:

I transmit herewith for filing Executive Order No. 2021-3.

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori E. Lightfoot".

Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2021-3

WHEREAS, in Chicago, low-income people of color are disproportionately impacted by arrest and incarceration, and over 11,000 individuals return to Chicago each year upon their release from prison; and

WHEREAS, many of these Chicagoans lack an adequate education and job skills, and, upon their release, are likely to struggle with limited housing and employment options, and with physical and behavioral health issues; and

WHEREAS, returning residents—and their families and communities—are not provided with the supports, services, and investments needed to succeed, and this contributes to high rates of recidivism; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council (“SPAC”) estimates that, of the people released from Illinois prisons each year, 17% recidivate within one year and 43% recidivate within three years; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago recognizes that persistent recidivism is fueled by structural barriers and inequities within the healthcare, housing, and workforce systems, which are shaped by systemic racism, gender discrimination, and discrimination based on one’s arrest and conviction record; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago recognizes that the disruption families experience when a loved one is incarcerated can lead to generational cycles of trauma and poverty, which can be disrupted through meaningful investments; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the City supports returning residents through trauma-informed, evidence-based programs with track records of success and policies that remove barriers to opportunity for people with arrest and conviction records; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago likewise recognizes the need to create a “Second Chance City” that addresses the root causes of incarceration and recidivism and creates wrap-around responses that enable all Chicagoans to thrive; and

WHEREAS, management of services and policies impacting returning residents in the City of Chicago is currently highly siloed and involves multiple City departments and sister agencies; and

WHEREAS, Chicago aspires to have City departments and sister agencies working together through a “whole of government” approach to measurably improve short-term and long-term outcomes for returning residents; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated system of governance to support returning residents is in concert with the goals and strategies of existing City plans, including We Will Chicago, INVEST South/West, Healthy Chicago 2025, the Mayor’s Solutions Toward Ending Poverty Agenda, and Mayor Lightfoot’s Transition Team recommendations on Returning Residents; and

WHEREAS, in Spring and Summer 2021, Mayor Lightfoot convened a multi-sector Returning Residents Working Group consisting of community leaders, advocates, and people with lived experience as returning residents to shape the City’s policy and programmatic agenda around healthcare, housing, and workforce access, as well as the corresponding internal governance structure to promote accountability; now, therefore,

I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, Mayor of the City of Chicago do hereby order as follows:

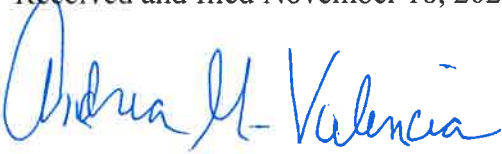
1. The establishment of an Interagency Reentry Council (“Council”), coordinated by the Office of the Mayor, the purpose of which shall be to:
 - a. Convene City departments, sister agencies, and community partners around a shared goal of promoting positive reentry and life outcomes for returning residents in Chicago;
 - b. Advance the priorities of the 2021 Returning Residents Working Group around healthcare, housing, and workforce development systems and policies;
 - c. Collect and analyze data on Chicago’s returning resident population, including using data to identify communities disproportionately impacted by recidivism, set shared goals, and track progress of outcomes;
 - d. Engage government, non-profit, business, and philanthropic partners to build a coalition committed to building a Second Chance City;
 - e. Identify and remove policy barriers and regulatory burdens that contribute to disparities in Chicago’s safety net for returning residents;
 - f. Review and make recommendations on best practices and new, innovative policies, programs, and funding opportunities that could advance equitable opportunities for returning residents;
 - g. Serve as a focal point for community feedback and solicit support from external organizations and subject matter experts;

This Order shall take effect upon its execution and filing with the City Clerk.



Mayor

Received and filed November 18, 2021



City Clerk

Chicago City Clerk-Council Div.
2021 NOV 18 PM5:04