



**MAYOR'S OFFICE  
ON RETURNING  
CITIZEN AFFAIRS**

**FY2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



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WE ARE  
WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

# THE NEW H T Z O C

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



America is a land of second chances, and Washington DC is a city designed for Washingtonians in all eight wards to prosper and thrive in the city they love and call home. As Mayor of Washington DC, the focus of my administration is about creating “Fair Shot” opportunities and “Pathways to the Middle Class” for all District of Columbia residents. This includes our family members and neighbors who have paid their debt to society and are now returning to our prosperous city from incarceration. It's important that we continue to work to eliminate the barriers which historically have prevented returning citizens from successfully reintegrating back into society.

Data has shown that support systems contribute to the reductions in recidivism rates, lead to stronger and healthy families and communities here in the District of Columbia. My Administration has continued to expand programmatic and outreach efforts to facilitate successful reintegration for returning citizens, through coordinated efforts of several of its vital municipal, community and faith-based partners.

As we continue to experience economic prosperity here in the District of Columbia, we must continue to be intentional with investments into our underserved communities and constituents. My Administration has continued to develop, implement, and maintain innovative service delivery systems to ensure that our returning citizens are provided with “Fair Shot” opportunities to succeed and prosper here in the District of Columbia.

As we reflect on the achievements of this past year, we are fully aware of the work still ahead. We use our past successes as motivation to continue building a District of Columbia that works best for residents of all backgrounds as well as across the income spectrum. In 2019, the Mystics successfully ran it back, the Nationals finished the fight, our public schools were the fastest improving in the nation, and our city earned a new nickname: the District of Champions. In 2020, let's keep on winning.

Sincerely,

MURIEL BOWSER

Mayor, District of Columbia

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



MORCA is the District of Columbia's hub for reentry, and is responsible for connecting previously incarcerated District residents to the essential resources and services necessary for their successful reintegration into society.

The efforts of the office on behalf of the Mayor and the District's reentry community has made it a national model for other jurisdictions as they attempt to understand how to best go about the necessary task of ensuring that all returning citizens are given a fair shot to become productive citizens after their return from incarceration. In FY19 Mayor Bowser has tasked MORCA with continuing to expand efforts to facilitate successful reintegration for returning citizens back into the communities of the District, and coordinate the efforts of several of its vital municipal, community and faith-based partners.

In FY19 my team completed a comprehensive strategic plan, undertaken with input from, and in partnership with the reentry community and the partner District and Federal agencies, in order to ensure that the office organized and planned-out for the greatest possible impact in the community for years to come.

MORCA would not have been successful without our community partners and I am proud to share our FY19 highlights with you all.

Sincerely,

**BRIAN FERGUSON**

Director, Mayor's Office On Returning Citizen Affairs



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Data suggests that individuals who remain connected to their communities while incarcerated are less likely to return to prison. In the District of Columbia, over 2,000 District residents return annually from incarceration. The Mayor's Office of Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) provides referral services such as career development, job placement, and social services to support District residents who are recently released from incarceration.

In an effort to minimize the stressors that compound due to incarceration the MORCA case management program continued connecting formerly incarcerated residents to services and resources, such as employment, employment training, health services and vital records services. Working towards fulfilling the mission of eliminating barriers to successful reentry MORCA implemented and expanded several programs: The

Returning Citizens Paralegal Pilot program, Travel Subsidy Smart Trip program, Pathways to Work Driver License Initiative, ID and Vital Records Voucher Initiative, and the CDL Program Certification Program. In efforts of minimizing the stressors that are compounded due to incarceration, MORCA expanded outreach to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) and local halfway house facilities to connect with DC residents within six months to one year of their release date and expanded the monthly family reunification trips to include three additional FBOP facilities. Lastly, in an effort to reach and engage more constituents, MORCA increased its community engagement presence through participation in community events, resource fairs, presentations and digital engagement platforms.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### CASE MANAGEMENT

In FY19, MORCA case managers continued to provide constituents with ongoing support with their reintegration into the community. In order to identify needs and supportive services, the case managers conducted a complete needs assessment and developed individual service plans that identify needs to connect constituents to resources to support their reintegration. In FY19, case managers created 663 case plans for constituents.

### ID & VITAL RECORDS VOUCHER INITIATIVE

In FY19, MORCA provided 1,317 ID vouchers for returning citizens to obtain birth certificates, social security cards, waivers for driver's license and learner's permits, ultimately setting reentrants on the path to success.

### PATHWAYS TO WORK DRIVER LICENSE INITIATIVE

In FY-19 MORCA fully implemented the Pathways to Work Driver License Initiative; the Pathways to Work Driver's License Initiative eliminates barriers to employment. This program was made possible with the partnership between the Central Collection Unit (CCU) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). In FY19, MORCA was able to provide assistance to 820 constituents.

### CDL PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP & FLAGGERS CERTIFICATION

MORCA's CDL Partnership Program with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and DC Infrastructure Academy (DCIA) allowed constituents the opportunity to attend one of two training classes held monthly. In FY19, 167 individuals completed one or both trainings through MORCA.

### RETURNING CITIZENS PARALEGAL PROGRAM

MORCA, in partnership with Department of Employment Services (DOES) and Georgetown University implemented the Returning Citizens Paralegal Program. MORCA worked with Georgetown University's School of Continuing Studies to provide the paralegal studies training program to twenty-five (25) participants. At the conclusion of the 3 month program participants received a paralegal certification and also entered into a paid internship at various law firms across the district.



### RETURNING CITIZENS OPPORTUNITY TO SUCCEED

MORCA implemented the Travel Subsidy Program which provided 261 returning citizens with \$90 smart trip metro cards. Constituents were able to utilize these resources for essential travel needs such as employment searches, employment interviews, employment readiness programs, health appointments and post incarceration monitoring services.



## Partnerships And Engagement

### OUTREACH

In FY19, MORCA continued with the office's outreach strategy through the increased frequency of family reunification trips, the development of an outreach team, the creation of a newsletter, increased media outreach efforts, and innovative programming. Through these activities MORCA engaged with 4,971 residents as a result of outreach programming.



MORCA conducted 65 "Welcome Home" information sessions at the Federal Bureau of Prisons operated Halfway Houses and 28 "Welcome Home" information sessions at the DC Department of Corrections. These information sessions provide residents essential resources and information regarding employment, educational, medical, and housing opportunities.

### FAMILY REUNIFICATION TRIPS

In FY19, over 400 family members participated in the family reunification trips. MORCA's Family Reunification trips allow families to maintain and strengthen relationships through visitation. Family Reunification trips are conducted once a month to different facilities where DC residents are incarcerated. These trips are meant to minimize the stressors that are compounded by the distance and separation from family. Additionally, these trips are at no cost to the family members.

FCI Fairton	10/13/18	Family Reunification Trip
FCC Petersburg	11/11/18	Family Reunification Trip
FCC Hazelton	12/15/18	Family Reunification Trip
FCI Cumberland	3/16/19	Family Reunification Trip
FCC Hazelton	6/22/19	Family Reunification Trip
FCC Allenwood	7/20/19	Family Reunification Trip
FCI Fort Dix	11/16/19	Family Reunification Trip
FCC Hazelton	12/21/19	Family Reunification Trip



## Partnerships And Engagement



### 5TH ANNUAL RETURNING CITIZEN FAMILY DAY COOKOUT

On July 27, 2019, MORCA hosted returning citizens and their families at the 5th Annual Returning Citizen Family Day Cookout. This event took place in partnership with the National Association for the Advancement of Returning Citizens with over 150 attendees. The purpose of the event was to foster a communal environment for children and families of formerly incarcerated individuals. This event specifically highlighted family reunification and nurtured the bond shared between formerly incarcerated District residents

### MORCA DATA:

Measurement	FY-16	FY-17	FY-18	FY-19
Number of People Served	5,884	6,287	7,022	7,557
New Registration	3,342	2,513	2,404	3,189
Voter Registration	950	1,104	1,506	1,200
Received CDL Training	164	128	135	167
ID Vouchers	2,974	2,500	1,352	1,317
Flagger Training Certifications	66	72	52	75





## CONNECT WITH US!

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