

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, North Carolina was the third state to join Reentry 2030, a national program focused on ensuring every person released from prison succeeds in reintegrating into society; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County established Reentry Services in 2013 to serve those returning to the County upon release from prison; and

WHEREAS, Mecklenburg County receives approximately 1,200 residents returning from State and Federal incarceration annually, and approximately 11,000 people in Mecklenburg County are under correctional supervision at any given time; and

WHEREAS, formerly incarcerated people are 10 times more likely to experience homelessness than those who have not been incarcerated, with the highest rates being those incarcerated more than once, those recently released, those of color and women; and

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate among the formerly incarcerated people is 27% higher than the U.S. unemployment rate at any point, and five times higher than the rate for the general U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, 30-40% suffer from chronic diseases, up to 20% have significant mental illness and 50% likely suffer from substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, every person leaving incarceration should have housing, employment, and health care, and should not be unfairly excluded from housing, employment, occupational licenses, or public benefits; and

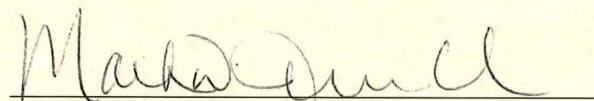
WHEREAS, by focusing on prevention, reentry, and social support, we can ensure that Mecklenburg County supports and offers second chances and opportunities for all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners joins the State of North Carolina and does hereby proclaim April 2025, as

“REENTRY MONTH”

in Mecklenburg County and urge all citizens to join in supporting persons and families living with criminal histories and those who work to ensure their transition back into the community is successful.

This 15th day of April 2025



Mark D. Jerrell, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

