

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has declared April 2024 as North Carolina Reentry Month; and Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order 303 to improve reentry services in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is 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 1200 residents returning from State and Federal incarceration annually, and 11,000 people in the 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, and 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, including during the Great Depression, five times higher than the rate for the general US population; and

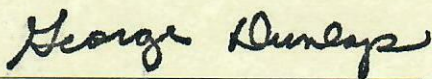
WHEREAS, 30-40% suffer from chronic diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, and lung disease. Up to 20% have significant mental illness and 50% likely suffer from substance use disorder; recently released prisoners are 74 times more likely than the general population to die of a heroin overdose in the first 2 weeks post-release. Most formerly incarcerated individuals do not have health insurance; and

WHEREAS, every person leaving incarceration should have housing, employment, and health care, 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 the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim April 2024 as Reentry Month in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 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 16th day of April 2024



George R. Dunlap, Chair,
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

