



# This Week at the Second Chance Foundation...

Mission: "To provide a crime prevention strategy for Metropolitan Kansas City through research, advocacy and the funding of programs that improves opportunities for ex-offenders to lead productive lives."

March 26, 2009

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In an effort to keep you more informed on what's happening at the Second Chance Foundation, we will send out this e-newsletter periodically with the latest and greatest news and information! The news items will be identified as Research, Advocacy, Public Relations, Special Project or Fundraising related.

Thanks for your support of the Second Chance Foundation!

## Coming Soon

Board Meeting – April 21, 3pm, Kauffman (Board members & invitees)

• Kansas City

## [Second Chance Hosts Press Conference](#)

**The Second Chance Foundation is proud to partner with the Missouri Department of Corrections to host a press conference on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm at the new Southeast Community Center. The Governor will have signed the Executive Order promoting the Missouri Reentry Process (MRP). Below is a draft of that Executive Order:**

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

**WHEREAS, the State of Missouri recognizes that all citizens have a right to live in safe communities; and**

**WHEREAS, 97% of offenders in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections will be released from prison to live in those communities; and**

**WHEREAS, the state of Missouri recognizes that a good and responsible government is one that applies its resources in an efficient, effective and coordinated effort to ensure offenders leave prison with the tools they need to be successful, law-abiding citizens – not just for the offender but for children, families, friends, neighbors, visitors and businesses; and**

**WHEREAS, offenders released from prison without the tools necessary to become law abiding and productive citizens represent additional crime, cost to taxpayers and substantial impact on crime victims.**

**WHEREAS, the Missouri Reentry Process has demonstrated great progress in bringing State departments and community organizations together to work in unison toward this common and**

Metropolitan  
Reentry  
Coalition, March  
31<sup>st</sup>, 3-4PM  
(open networking  
2-3PM) Pioneer  
Campus of MCC,  
2700 E. 18<sup>th</sup> St,  
K.C. Mo.,  
Auditorium

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**noble goal of improved public safety; and**

**WHEREAS, ongoing commitment to this process from all participating State departments is a requirement for its ultimate success; and**

**WHEREAS, all Missourians will benefit from the success of this collaborative approach to public safety.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeremiah “Jay” Nixon, Governor of the State of Missouri, by the power vested in me by the Laws and Constitution of the State of Missouri, do hereby and direct the Department of Corrections to lead a permanent interagency steering team for the Missouri Reentry Process. The steering team shall be comprised of executive level staff from the following state agencies:**

- **Department of Corrections**
- **Missouri Board of Probation and Parole**
- **Department of Mental Health**
- **Department of Social Services**
- **Department of Secondary and Elementary Education**
- **Department of Economic Development**
- **Department of Revenue**
- **Department of Health and Senior Services**
- **Office of the State Court Administration**
- **Department of Public Safety**
- **Department of Transportation**

**Membership shall also include representatives from various community organizations representing the crime victims, law enforcement, treatment providers, the faith based community and any others deemed necessary to accomplish the mission set forth herein.**

**The Missouri Reentry Process Steering Team will be lead by the Missouri Department of Corrections with senior leaders representing the above noted Departments and community organizations. The Missouri Reentry Process Steering Team shall integrate successful offender reentry principles and practices in state agencies and communities resulting in partnerships that enhance offender self-sufficiency, reduce re-incarceration, and improve public safety.**

**The Department of Corrections shall, with the Missouri Reentry Process Steering Team, provide bi-annual reports to the Governor and the Director’s of the partnering state agencies and community organizations on the outcomes, progress towards goals and emerging issues relative to the Missouri Reentry Process.**

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## Meet the Second Chance Board:



*Alvin Brooks*  
Member of the Board

**Alvin Brooks is the former Mayor Pro Tem and 6<sup>th</sup> District at-Large City Council Person. He was first elected in 1999 and re-elected in 2003. After his first election, Mr. Brooks was appointed as Mayor Pro Tem by Mayor Kay Barnes. In addition to serving as Mayor Pro Tem, he chaired the Public Safety Committee, the Police Capital Improvements Oversight Committee, the Police Site Selection Committee, and served as vice-chair of the Aviation Committee and the Finance and Audit Committee.**

**Mr. Brooks lost a bid for Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, in 2007 by a mere 851 votes.**

**Mr. Brooks has been a consultant to many business executives in the area of diversity, minority, and women matters. He has conducted hundreds of seminars and workshops on the subject of cultural/racial diversity, religious tolerance, and civil rights for governmental agencies and the private sector. In addition, he has been a motivational speaker at numerous colleges, universities, and high school commencements.**

**In 1991, Mr. Brooks was selected as President of the Ad Hoc Group**

**Against Crime, a broad-based grassroots community organization he founded in Kansas City, Missouri, in November 1977. His interest in public safety and efforts to improve the quality of life in Kansas City continues with his support of the Second Chance Foundation of the Kansas City Metropolitan Crime Commission.**

## **A Sneak Peek:**

**Conclusion of a series on: Advice for State Policymakers on Designing Strategies That Improve Employment Outcomes and Increase Public Safety. This newsletter will discuss STEP Four – How should employment services be organized and implemented as recently published in a bulletin by the The Council of State Governments Justice Center.**

### **Step Four: How should employment services be organized and implemented?**

**Policy makers should consult relevant state and local agencies and designate which will be responsible for administering the reinvestment initiative. Ideally, administrative structures should mirror financing structures. The designated agency should not have sole control. State officials should consider establishing or directing an existing oversight body, such as a reentry council, to approve any plans before expending funds. This kind of interagency structure can help facilitate collaboration among multiple agencies. The administrating agencies should ensure that services are provided within corrections facilities and coordinated post-release.**

**Agencies should also seek to develop formal mechanisms to ensure that the organizations that ultimately receive reinvestment funding achieve the outcomes identified for the target population. Such mechanisms could include setting clear outcome benchmarks, developing automated data collection systems, using performance based contracting, and conducting independent evaluations through local universities or community colleges.**

## **Policy Reforms:**

- **Policymakers should prioritize reforms that can improve the effectiveness of the reinvestment initiative. For example, state officials may choose to review and remove particular legal barriers to employment for some categories of people with criminal records. State leaders may also want to reexamine such issues as personal identification, federal benefits, transportation to jobs, and other issues that can destabilize the individual and his or her family.**
- **Policymakers should consider any analyses of the local labor market to determine where opportunities exist for people with criminal records and encourage job growth in those sectors. They should also consider policies that would encourage the expansion of services in areas in which gaps in provision are identified.**

## **Miss a newsletter?**

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