



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
PO Box 15020
Washington, DC 20003



ANC 6A RESOLUTION NO. 2022-002
Resolution regarding ANC 6A support for the Restore ACT

WHEREAS, ANC 6A has supported criminal justice reform including passing a resolution in July 2021 indicating support for all 90 recommendations of the DC Police Reform Commission.¹

WHEREAS, DC Justice Lab has twice presented to the ANC 6A Community Outreach Committee on public safety reforms including most recently at the December 13th, 2021 Community Outreach Committee meeting on public safety.

WHEREAS, Of the 40,000 people who are arrested in DC each year, almost one-third are not prosecuted, yet these individuals still bear a criminal record. This is fundamentally unjust.

WHEREAS, An individual who has been arrested, cited, charged, and/or convicted in the District faces a uniquely challenging record sealing process. According to the Collateral Consequences Resource Center's Reintegration Report Card, DC's scheme ranks 40th in the nation, and the organization states that "D.C. record relief laws are among the least generous in the Nation."

WHEREAS, This onerous process has serious implications for individuals seeking employment and housing and disproportionately impacts Black residents who comprise 86% of people arrested in the District, 92% of people in jail, and 95% of people in prison serving DC Code sentences (ACLU, 2019; CCE, 2020)m yet only make up 46% of DC population.

WHEREAS, The RESTORE Act (the "Act") was developed by DC Justice Lab and Councilmember Christina Henderson and is co-sponsored by Judiciary Chairperson and Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and supported by the majority of DC Councilmembers.

WHEREAS, The Act was developed in consultation with returning citizens, defense attorneys, prosecutors, and local and national justice reform organizations. It carefully considers the practicalities of litigation and sequestration. It also accounts for due process considerations such as the need for access to exculpatory evidence in related criminal cases.

WHEREAS, the Restore Act provides clear definitions of record expungement and record sealing; provides a clear definition of the purposes for which a request to access or disclose records may be made; creates a framework for expungement upon written motion for non-convictions; facilitates automatic sealing for non-convictions; empowers the court, in its discretion, to seal records of felony convictions; eliminates disqualifying convictions as a barrier to seeking and obtaining relief; and places time limits on the court's determination of motions to seal.

¹ <https://dccouncil.us/police-reform-commission-full-report/>

WHEREAS, If enacted, the Act would dramatically simplify the process for sealing or expunging a criminal record and significantly expand the number of people eligible for this relief.

WHEREAS, This legislation would have a widespread positive impact on the employment and housing prospects of the one in seven individuals currently living with publicly-available criminal records in Washington, D.C.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 6A urges the DC Council to pass the RESTORE Act as soon as possible.

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amber K. Gove".

Amber Gove Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

January 31, 2022

This Resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0-1 on January 13, 2022 at a public meeting of ANC6A at which a quorum was present.