



20401088

Office of the Clerk

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MOTION

Second Chance Opportunities for Employment, Housing and Education for Ex-Offenders and Victims of Human Trafficking

WE MOVE that the City of Cincinnati take appropriate steps to assist residents of Cincinnati with necessary aid required for expungement of criminal records which will better enable such individuals to gain critical access to employment, housing and education, to obtain Certificates of Qualifications for Employment (QCEs), and to assist victims of human trafficking in obtaining expungements of offenses tied to being trafficked, which efforts will help such individuals become productive members of society and reduce rates of recidivism.

WE MOVE that the City engage with the Ohio Justice & Policy Center (OJPC) to implement a one-year pilot program to help Cincinnati residents address and resolve the numerous legal obstacles related to the possession of a criminal record, particularly those convicted under the since-discarded marijuana ordinance and to overcome legal barriers to employment, housing and education, which will aid in building a greater, stronger and more successful Cincinnati.

WE MOVE that \$75,000 in previously appropriated Ex-Offender funds (City of Cincinnati account no. 050x161x7289x1000) be used by the City of Cincinnati to enter into an agreement with the OJPC to initiate and implement such a one-year pilot program, a program to provide "Second Chance Opportunities for Employment, Housing and Education for Ex-Offenders and Victims of Human Trafficking."

STATEMENT

As detailed in the attached OJPC proposal, the “Second Chance Opportunities for Employment, Housing and Education for Ex-Offenders and Victims of Human Trafficking.” project is intended to assist 240 individuals in the areas of expungement of criminal records, obtaining Certificates of Qualifications for Employment (CQEs), and expungements related to human trafficking and to further reach an additional 520 individuals, employers, workforce developers, attorneys, service providers and community-based groups with targeted education on relevant issues related to criminal records in the following three areas:

- 1) Criminal-record sealing (expungment): Record sealing allows individuals to respond “no” on employment and housing applications that ask whether the person has been convicted of a crime. The project will help eligible people apply to have their records sealed.
- 2) Certificates of Qualification for Employment (CQEs): A CQE is a relatively new addition to Ohio law that helps address two difficult employment barriers for people with criminal records. First, it removes mandatory state-law legal barriers to employment. For people entering into high-growth, regulated fields like healthcare and education, a CQE helps people with criminal records open a door that was shut due to state-law barriers. Second, CQEs protect any employer that hires a certificate holder from negligent-hiring liability. Fear of liability is the top reason employers are hesitant to hire people with criminal records. The project will help individuals apply for CQEs, train “CQE coaches” to help applicants and engage workforce-development professionals and employers in understanding the CQE process.
- 3) Expungment Related to Victims of Human Trafficking: Another new addition to Ohio law is a new form of expungement that allows victims of human trafficking to remove offenses tied to being trafficked. This project will help people apply for expungement while educating potential applicants, service professionals and attorney on this new way to address criminal records.

Attachment. July 30, 2014 OJPC proposal.



Councilmember Charlie Winburn
Chairperson, Budget and Finance Committee
Co-sponsor



Councilmember Yvette Simpson
Chairperson, Human Services,
Youth and Arts Committee
Co-sponsor

Councilmember Kevin Flynn

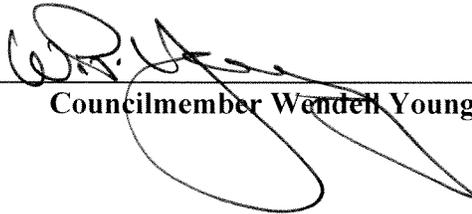
Vice Mayor David Mann

Councilmember Amy Murray

Councilmember Chris Seelbach

Councilmember P.G. Sittenfeld

Councilmember Christopher Smitherman



Councilmember Wendell Young

Mayor John Cranley



OJPC

OHIO JUSTICE & POLICY CENTER
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July 30, 2014

Council Member Charlie Winburn
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New York only

Re: OJPC proposal to assist people with criminal records in Cincinnati

Dear Council Member Winburn,

Between 2006 and 2010, the City of Cincinnati elevated possession of marijuana—a mere ticket, or minor misdemeanor, elsewhere in the state—to a fourth degree misdemeanor. Cincinnati Municipal Code section 910.23 was aimed at getting guns and violent offenders off the streets through searches done incident to arrests for marijuana possession. The law failed to curb violent crime in Cincinnati as intended. It did, however, lead to over 28,000 unnecessary and costly arrests and to unintended consequences that are making it difficult for people arrested for possession of marijuana in Cincinnati to access employment, housing and education and be productive members of our community.

Most notably, the heightened degree of misdemeanor contained in CMC 910.23 often renders Cincinnati residents ineligible to have their criminal records sealed under Ohio law. In this way, CMC 910.23, even though it has since been repealed, continues to have the effect of shackling a portion of Cincinnati's available workforce. These Cincinnatians, even those who have demonstrably turned their lives around, cannot take advantage of the same legal avenues for addressing their criminal records available to people convicted anywhere else in the state.

The Ohio Justice & Policy Center proposes a one-year pilot program to help Cincinnati residents with criminal records, particularly those convicted under the since-discarded marijuana ordinance, overcome legal barriers to employment, housing and education. The project builds off of our well-established Second Chance Community Legal Clinic, which provides free legal services to people with criminal records at three community partner sites in Cincinnati.

The project will help Cincinnati residents who were convicted under the city marijuana ordinance use Ohio law to best address their records while engaging a host of community stakeholders on criminal record issues to help increase their employment prospects.



July 30, 2014

OJPC proposal to help people with criminal records in Cincinnati

As detailed in the OGSM attached, the project will assist people in three areas:

- 1) Criminal-record sealing (expungment): Record sealing allows individuals to respond “no” on employment and housing applications that ask whether the person has been convicted of a crime. The project will help eligible people apply to have their records sealed.
- 2) Certificates of Qualification for Employment (CQEs): A CQE is a relatively new addition to Ohio law that helps address two difficult employment barriers for people with criminal records. First, it removes mandatory state-law legal barriers to employment. For people entering into high-growth, regulated fields like healthcare and education, a CQE helps people with criminal records open a door that was shut due to state-law barriers. Second, CQEs protect any employer that hires a certificate holder from negligent-hiring liability. Fear of liability is the top reason employers are hesitant to hire people with criminal records. The project will help individuals apply for CQEs, train “CQE coaches” to help applicants and engage workforce-development professionals and employers in understanding the CQE process.
- 3) Expungment Related to Victims of Human Trafficking: Another new addition to Ohio law is a new form of expungement that allows victims of human trafficking to remove offenses tied to being trafficked. This project will help people apply for expungement while educating potential applicants, service professionals and attorney on this new way to address criminal records.

For the one-year pilot program, OJPC requests \$75,000 to cover staff salaries to be divided among the project areas as detailed in the OGSM attached. We anticipate helping 240 people have their criminal records sealed, get a CQE or get an expungement related to human trafficking. Additionally, the project will reach an additional 520, individuals, employers, workforce developers, attorneys, service providers and community-based groups with targeted education on relevant criminal record issues. I look forward to discussing this request with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Singleton", written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Singleton
Executive Director

Objective	Goals	Strategies	Measures
Remove legal barriers to employment, housing and education for people with criminal records in Cincinnati, particularly those convicted of Marijuana possession under CMC 910.23.	Record Sealing (\$5,000): Certificates of Qualification for Employment (CQEs) (\$40,000):	Help people applying to have their criminal records sealed	100 people have their criminal record sealed
		Help people applying for CQEs	100 people receive CQEs
		Educate individuals about CQEs and how they lift job barriers	200 people in community workshops
		Train "CQE Coaches" at local churches, agencies and community-based organizations	Train 30 "CQE Coaches"
		Train workforce-development professionals to assist CQE holders find employment	Train 50 workforce-development professionals on CQEs
		Educate employers and HR professionals on the benefits of CQEs	Educate 40 employers in Greater Cincinnati
	Expungement Related to Human Trafficking (\$30,000):	Help victims of human trafficking applying to have their criminal records expunged	40 people have their criminal record expunged
		Educate people about expungement related to human trafficking	100 people in workshops related to trafficking
		Educate advocates, attorneys and agency staff about expungement related to human trafficking	100 professionals educated about expungement related to trafficking