



Press Advisory: October 6, 2020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRRC to Hand Out 1,000,000 Masks at Polling Locations

-Press Conference Will Take Place on Wednesday, October 7th at 11:00AM to Outline the Initiative and the steps FRRC is taking to ensure returning citizens can vote safely and confidently-

Orlando, FL (October 6, 2020) — In an effort to ensure that returning citizens, as well as all others, can vote safely across the state of Florida starting on Oct. 19, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) will hand out over 1 million masks at various polling locations throughout Florida. The masks will be shared ahead of Oct. 24 — FRRC’s Free the Vote, early voting day of action.

“We believe that every person should have the right to make their voice heard on election day, regardless of their race, age or political background,” says Desmond Meade, Executive Director of FRRC. “With these masks, we are making sure that returning citizens — many of whom are voting for the first time — feel safe casting their vote.”

Florida has the third highest number of COVID-19 cases and more than 14,000 COVID-related deaths. Communities with returning citizens have been especially hard-hit by COVID. As returning citizens are making the choice between voting by mail and going in-person to the polls, FRRC wants to help provide assurances that this group of voters and their families feel safe and stay healthy.

The masks are provided through a shared funding agreement between FRRC and Orlando, Florida attorney and philanthropist Mark NeJame of NeJame Law. FRCC is purchasing 500,000 FDA approved masks for distribution and NeJame is matching this by donating an additional 500,000 masks to the FRCC in support of their efforts.

“There are many steps returning citizens can take to make sure they can vote safely and with confidence, including wearing a mask to protect themselves from COVID and voting early to make sure the process goes smoothly,” Meade says. “That’s why we are asking returning citizens to come together and march to the polls for our Free the Vote campaign.

NeJame added, “What Desmond and the FRCC have done for the people of the State of Florida is historical and long overdue. As a defense attorney, I’ve long witnessed firsthand the unfairness and discrimination against those who have paid their debt to society. It’s my honor to support the FRRC in this most important initiative.”

FRRC’s Free the Vote campaign is a statewide day of action mobilizing returning citizens and family members to exercise their voting rights across Florida. “Our vote is our voice,” Meade says. “Policymakers listen to voters, so let’s send a message loud and clear. Let’s get out and unleash the vote!”



A Press Conference disclosing and discussing this statewide initiative will be held on October 7th at FRRC's headquarters, at 11:00am at 4081 LB McLeod Road, Orlando, FL. For further information contact Taylor Hopkins at press@Floridarrc.org or cell, 407 675 6412.

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About The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

FRRC is a grassroots, membership organization run by Returning Citizens (Formerly Convicted Persons) who are dedicated to ending the disenfranchisement and discrimination against people with convictions and creating a more comprehensive and humane reentry system that will enhance successful reentry, reduce recidivism, and increase public safety. For more information, visit <https://floridarrc.com/>.