



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Brandon Walthour, (407) 233-3614, press@floridarrc.org
Brittany Bell Surratt, (202) 468-2700, brittany@sptifirestrategies.com

FRRC's Second Chance Month Bus Tour Kicks Off in Duval County

Florida Rights Restoration Coalition kicks off Second Chance Month with its latest statewide bus tour in support of returning citizens, people with past felony convictions

Jacksonville, FL (March 31, 2021) — The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) is kicking off Second Chance Month with its latest statewide bus tour, starting in Jacksonville on Saturday, April 3. The FRRC bus will be at the Charles Clark Community Center at 12:00 pm ET, with interested attendees requested to arrive by 1:00 pm ET. A press conference will be held at 1:30 pm ET and live-streamed on Instagram and Facebook.

Observed each April, Second Chance Month is a nationwide initiative to raise awareness of the collateral consequences of a criminal conviction and advocate for second chances for people to become fully empowered citizens in their communities, after completing their sentences. Along with local partners, FRRC is providing a fun, family-friendly opportunity for returning citizens, their families and their friends to celebrate Easter and access the resources and support that they need to fully restore their civil rights.

“Second Chance Month is an opportunity to continue raising awareness of the discrimination and disenfranchisement faced by returning citizens in Florida,” said Desmond Meade, executive director of FRRC. “It’s also a time to support people in accessing these second chances. After our successful recent bus tours that started in 2018, FRRC is excited to embark on another tour dedicated to providing the important resources that returning citizens need to fully restore their active participation in society.”

The free, outdoor and socially distant event will have resources on housing, clemency, civil rights, driver’s licenses and voter registration, among other important information, available for returning citizens. It will also feature an Easter egg hunt for children in celebration of the holiday, live music from DJ Larry Love and a food truck by A&S Express.

Last year, FRRC embarked on an extensive statewide bus tour to mobilize returning citizens to the polls for early voting. They ensured registered returning citizens and their families could vote early, and led #freethevote marches across Florida urging returning citizens to use their voice and voting power.

In 2018, nearly two-thirds of Floridians voted in favor of restoring voting rights to 1.4 million returning citizens. Florida's legislature then passed a requirement that returning citizens pay their remaining fines and fees before re-enfranchisement.

FRRC, with the support of more than 90,000 donors nationwide, helped raise more than \$27 million to pay returning citizens' fines and fees. Their dedicated efforts tore down voting barriers for more than 40,000 returning citizens in 2020.

This Saturday's event will kick off a series of events planned by FRRC for Second Chance Month across Florida. Those interested in attending this Saturday can learn more through FRRC's [Facebook event](#).

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/>.

###