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## **FRRC Partners with Miami-Dade Mayor, Employers for Second-Chance Initiative**

*As part of FRRC's "Free the Vote" bus tour, each event will include help with second-chance employment opportunities, voter registration, fines and fees, information regarding Florida's clemency process updates, COVID-19 vaccines and more*

**Miami, FL** (June 11, 2021) — In partnership with Miami-Dade County, OIC of South Florida, Career Source South Florida and the Florida Justice Center, the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) is bringing its "Free the Vote" bus tour to Miami June 11-13. FRRC is committed to empowering returning citizens in the state of Florida by removing the systemic barriers to reentering society, including gaining access to jobs, housing and voting so they can have a fair second chance at life.

**FRRC, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava** and partners will kick off the three-day event at a **press conference Friday, 12:30 p.m. ET at the Dr. Dorothy Bendross Mindingall Social - Economic Institute**, 5120 NW 24th Ave. Miami, 33142.

The weekend-long stop will include three days of family-friendly opportunities for returning citizens to get the resources and support they need to reintegrate into the community. This will include help with fines and fees, voter registration, information on Florida's clemency process changes, second-chance employment opportunities, drivers license reinstatement assistance, COVID-19 vaccines and more.

"These bus events and job fairs are about empowering people, and creating safer, more vibrant communities. By partnering with the mayor, local leaders, the business community and others, we are making a tangible impact on the lives of people in Miami-Dade County," said Desmond Meade, Executive Director, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition. "We must commit to a comprehensive effort that takes into account all the tenets of a vibrant democracy."

In 2020, FRRC paid \$7 million in fines and fees to support more than 8,000 of Miami's returning citizens in removing barriers for them to vote. FRRC continues working with returning citizens who had their voting barriers removed who choose to register to vote. However, the work doesn't end with voter registration. The organization is on a mission to also help the state's returning citizens have access to jobs and businesses that understand the value in hiring formerly incarcerated residents.



"Tearing down barriers to employment, voting and community reintegration for returning citizens is a win-win-win for the people and businesses of our county," said Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade County Mayor. "We all benefit when people are able to get a job and have their voices heard in our community."

"Helping people find employment is not only good for both the employer and the employee, but for the entire community," said Rick Beasley, Executive Director, CareerSource South Florida. "We look forward to a successful job fair."

At a time when employers across the nation are struggling to fill open positions, returning Citizens make up an oft overlooked talent pool of millions of Americans. They can advance the economic recovery, which has been sluggish due to the labor shortage, if only given the opportunity. 82% of managers [report](#) that the value second chance employees bring to the organization is as high or higher than that of workers without records. The societal return on investment could be even greater if more employers participated.

"Each year, thousands of returning citizens are integrated back into society, after having served their time in our State's correctional institutions, only to face more challenges related to fines and fees owed. These financial burdens also include: solidifying employment, obtaining a driver's license, paying child support, and so much more. As a leading workforce development agency with a "sweet spot" for helping returning citizens successfully reintegrate back into their respective communities, OIC of South Florida (OIC-SFL) is elated to be partnering with the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition. This event represents hope for so many and we take great pride in being a part of the solution, said **Newton B. Sanon, President & CEO of OIC-SFL.**"

**The Free the Vote Bus tour will make the following stops June 11-13.**

- Bus Tour Launch press conference with Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
  - Friday June 11 12:30 p.m. ET
  - Dr. Dorothy Bendross Mindingall Social - Economic Institute, 5120 NW 24th Ave. Miami, 33142
  
- Friday, June 11, 2021; 1:00 p.m. ET
  - Dr. Dorothy Bendross Mindingall Social - Economic Institute, 5120 NW 24th Ave. Miami, 33142
  
- Saturday, June 12 , 2021, 11 a.m. ET
  - Wilbur B. Bell Park, 10301 SW 170th Terrace, Miami, 33157
  
- Sunday, June 13, 2021, 1 p.m. ET
  - Gwen Cherry 14, 2099 NW 23rd St., Miami 33142



**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/>.

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