



Charles Ogletree of Harvard Law School have initiated a proposal called the “Second Chance” program; and

Whereas, Under the “Second Chance” program, eligible non-violent felony offenders would have to remain crime free for a specified period of time, make a substantial contribution to public service and fulfill certain conditions, such as the attainment of a GED, development of job skills and successful completion of alcohol and drug abuse treatment; and

Whereas, After successful completion of the program, such individuals would be eligible to apply to a court to have their criminal record sealed; and

Whereas, The sealing of a criminal record would assist a program graduate in securing employment and thus help the graduate to provide for a family as a productive citizen of society; and

Whereas, A graduate of the “Second Chance” program would be able to regain the right to vote and participate in full citizenship; and

Whereas, The stigma that can result from a conviction record, and the obstacles to successful rehabilitation and reintegration into society that such stigma can cause, will be mitigated while protecting public safety and maintaining community trust; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to enact a “Second Chance” rehabilitation program of civic service, education and job training to assist non-violent felony offenders in reintegrating successfully into society.