



## Proclamation

# SECOND CHANCE MONTH

April 2020

WHEREAS, Every person is endowed with human dignity and value, and redemption and second chances are American values; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 70 million Americans have a criminal record, and individuals returning from prison and those who have paid their debt after committing a crime face significant barriers, also known as collateral consequences; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with a criminal history often struggle to find housing, employment, or education, regain voting rights, volunteer in their community, and pay for significant debt that arises as a result of their conviction and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, These barriers can contribute to recidivism, which increases victimization and decreases public safety, and the stigma and legal barriers associated with a criminal record result in lost human capital and lost economic output for the United States; and

WHEREAS, The anniversary of the death of Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship, the nation's largest outreach to prisoners and their families, falls on April 21 each year; and

WHEREAS, Businesses, congregations, and other organizations across the country celebrate Second Chance Month through prayer walks, Second Chance Sunday services, briefings, social media campaigns, advocacy, press, Second Chance 5Ks, and other events and activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlotte J. Nash, on behalf of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, do hereby declare April 2020 as Second Chance Month in Gwinnett. This designation contributes to increased public awareness about the need for closure for those who have paid their debt and opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances.

Chairman, Board of Commissioners  
Gwinnett County, Georgia

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020