



"No More Victims"
Spring 2021

HB 3653: A brief look inside the Bill

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Attention Passport Info!

Waukegan Township processes US Passport applications by appointment only.

Please call: 847-244-4900 or email

nburke@waukegantownship.com to make your appointment and find out all requirements to complete your application.

COALITION TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

Inside/Out

a Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Publication

The Pursuit of Justice in Illinois - Bill HB3653

By: Coalition Legislative Chair, Gary Oltmans



Monday, February 22, 2021 was a landmark day in Illinois history, for on that day Governor JB Pritzker signed into law HB3653 the Omnibus Crime bill, beginning a new era for criminal justice reform in Illinois.

The details of the bill are too numerous to go into detail here, but there are two important provisions particularly relevant to the mission of C2RR. The first is the Pretrial Fairness Act, which eliminates cash bail for individuals accused of a crime. Rather than requiring a money bond in order to avoid incarceration during the period between arrest and judicial review, a procedure that bases release on one's financial resources, the decision will be determined through a risk assessment of the charged individual's threat to the community and other relevant factors. This means individuals who have committed minor offenses will not be confined in jail simply because they do not have the financial resources to post bond.

The second feature of HB3653 is to put an end to the practice referred to as "prison gerrymandering". This is the process by which individuals who are incarcerated are, for purposes of the census, counted as residents of the community in which the prison is located rather than as residents of their home community (and the community to which they will return after release). This is important because the census-based population determines the amount of federal tax dollars returned to counties and municipalities for a multitude of services. HB3653 will result in additional tax dollars for the home communities of the returning citizen, communities that often are under-resourced and have experience long periods of economic deprivation.

C2RR would like to thank our many state and local legislators who supported and voted for HB3653, and Governor Pritzker for signing the bill into law. C2RR encourages all its members to contact their state Senators and Representatives and personally thank them for their support. There is considerable resistance to the bill by a number of agencies, so it is important to let our legislators and the Governor know we support them in their pursuit of justice in Illinois.



Letters written from the Coalition sent to JB Pritzker Governor, State of Illinois and State Representative Bob Morgan, IL Dist#58.

"A conviction does not have to be a life sentence"

HB 3653: HERE'S A LOOK AT WHAT'S INCLUDED



Among the changes is the elimination of monetary bail.



Recap from
www.nbcchicago.com

On February 22, 2021, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed House Bill 3653 Senate Amendment 2 into law. House Bill 3653, authored by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, brings "significant changes" to things like police training policies, police accountability, transparency in law enforcement and the rights of detainees and prisoners, according to Sen. Elgie R. Sims, Jr., who sponsored the bill.

Among the changes the bill brings are the elimination of monetary bail, a requirement that all police officers wear body cameras by 2025, a ban on all police chokeholds, new guidelines for "decertification" of police officers, and an end to suspended licenses for failure to pay, among several other changes. It also bans police departments from purchasing military equipment like .50 caliber rifles and tanks, increases protection for whistleblowers, and adds to rights for detainees to make phone calls and access their personal contacts before police questioning.

Detainees, prisoners and all those who interact with police officers will have the expectation of prompt medical care while in custody, with special accommodations made for pregnant women. Charges of resisting arrest must cite a justification for the original arrest that was allegedly resisted against under the measure, as well.

A law enforcement officer could lose certification if they are convicted of or found guilty of a felony offense or some misdemeanors under current state law. According to Sims, HB 3653 expands the list of misdemeanors which would prohibit a person from becoming a law enforcement officer or result in their decertification:

Gives the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board the discretionary authority to decertify an officer under certain circumstances.

Any misdemeanor offenses affecting governmental function such as resisting a peace officer or witness tampering

The following actions could result in an officer's decertification at a court's discretion:

Committing an act which would constitute an automatic decertification if it were prosecuted as a felony or misdemeanor.

Using excessive force in violation of state or federal law.

Failing to intervene to prevent harm from occurring including the not knowingly and willingly refusing to render aid when it is reasonable to administer aid and aid is required.

Tampering with a dash camera or body-worn camera or directing another for the purpose of concealing, destroying, or altering potential evidence.

Committing perjury, making a false statement, or knowingly tampering with or fabricating evidence.

Engaging in unprofessional, unethical, deceptive, deleterious conduct, or practices harmful to the public (including any departure from, or failure to conform to, the minimal standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of an officer).

For a full summary of provisions in Illinois House Bill 3653 can be found at www.civicfed.org.

**Apply online at www.waukegantownship.com. For more information call 847-244-4900
or email coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com.**



**COALITION TO
REDUCE RECIDIVISM**

Criminal Justice Scholarship Application

Due: September 30, 2021 by 4:00pm

Attention:

- *Students graduating from Lake County regional high schools or current Illinois college students (must be a resident of Lake County).*
- *Students continuing education at any accredited institution of higher learning (not applicable to online universities).*
- *Students pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice or a related field of study.*

The Coalition Criminal Justice Scholarship Fund was created for the purpose of encouraging students to pursue higher education in the field of Criminal Justice. Since inception, the mission of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism is to empower citizens (of Lake County) returning from incarceration through education and employment.



* The Lake County State's Attorney's office will no longer "overcharge" individuals with felonies to force them to accept plea bargains in order to get a misdemeanor instead.

* The Lake County State's Attorney says he's changing how his office prosecutes violent crimes, partly because of what he calls the county's "culture of wrongful convictions."

He is creating a Violent Crimes Unit in which prosecutors will focus only on these (violent crime) cases and work on them from beginning to end.

Rinehart said it should expedite the prosecution of criminal cases and - by reducing miscommunication and mistakes by prosecutors and police — help prevent wrongful convictions. The changes should also increase trust among prosecutors, police and the public, he said.

Advice From Repatriate Tina Arnold:



How did you change your life for the better?

My life first began to change for the better when I accepted the fact that I suffered from the disease of addiction; I needed help and recognizing that I could not do it alone. I believed that I could not get a respectable job due to my background, especially since I had committed a federal crime. My relationship with God gave me the courage to step out on faith. Every time I took one step, God took two and I obtained two different government positions, when I was told I would never be allowed to hold a position of that nature. I was then encouraged to enroll in college and although fear consumed me, I again, stepped out on faith and obtained an Associate's Degree along with a General Human Services Certificate. Lastly, I am a few classes away from obtaining my C.A.D.C (Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor) certification.

What have you done or are you doing to help others?

I have been working in Social Services for the past five years as a Peer-to-Peer Support Specialist along with Case Management in the mental health field. I am currently working at Legacy Youth and Adult Prevention giving back to those who are trying to get reacclimated back into society, with Employment Services, Life Skills, and Mentorship groups. My goal is to let others know there is hope after incarceration.

Any advice for individuals who may be going through what you did?

My first suggestion to others is to not recidivate, get with people who are working on positive lifestyle changes, set short term goals for themselves and stay focused on those goals. Challenge yourself and do not allow paralyzing fear to consume them or they will struggle to move forward in life, but most importantly, build a relationship with the God of their understanding.

How has the Coalition helped you?

Being incarcerated deeply affected my self esteem. The Coalition has given me a platform to share my story with others and prayerfully, they will find hope in my narrative.

Women's Virtual Round Table

Women Returning After Incarceration. Hear their stories!

► Dr. Mary Roberson
Facilitator



► Johnnie Jenkins



Dr. Michele Vaughn
Keynote Speaker

Carrie Panos Tina Arnold Denise Acevedo

On behalf of Waukegan Township Supervisor, Marc L. Jones, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Founder and Chairperson, Patricia Jones, and Coalition President, Mary Turley, thank you for joining our inaugural *Virtual Women's Round Table Discussion, Friday, February 26, 2021 (via Zoom)*.

It is our hope that this virtual discussion brought awareness to the plight of women as they shared part of their story after incarceration. We were all moved by the *candor and courage* each participant displayed during Part One of this series. It is our desire to assist women on their pathway towards *hope, healing and wholeness*.

As we continue to build upon the momentum of this event, it is our goal to further explore the effects of incarceration upon families, particularly the impact on children, hearing their perspective. *Please join us for part 2 of this impactful Virtual Women's Round Table Series - Women and Incarceration: The Family Impact (Friday, May 7, 2021, 11:00am - 12:30 pm)*.

More information will become available in the upcoming weeks. Additionally, check our social media platforms, website www.waukegantownship.com, and the Coalition "Inside/Out" newsletter for legislative updates.

If you have follow up questions, feedback or would like to participate as a panelist in our next discussion, please contact Special Services Manager, Robbie Randle at rrandle@waukegantownship.com. Thank you for joining us and we look forward to continue to serve our community at-large.

"I am not free while any women is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own."

- Audre Lorde

2021 - 2023 Coalition To Reduce Recidivism Officers



Board Chair
Patricia Jones



President
Mary Turley



Past President
Jennifer
Witherspoon, Esq.



1st Vice
President
Stella Jones



2nd Vice President
Warren Thomas



2nd Vice President
Dr. Sylvia
Johnson - Jones



Secretary
Kathryn
Vanden Berk,
Esq.



Treasurer
Arlene Day



Legislative
Chair
Dr. Gary
Oltmans



On Monday, December 21, 2020, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism inducted its newly elected officers at the monthly meeting.

The meeting was held via Zoom and officers were installed by the Hon. Judge Reginald Mathews.



COALITION LEGAL LLC

Non-convictions (nolle pros, successful supervisions, acquittals) are expungable. Convictions (fines, probation, jail/prison) can be sealed but not expunged. Virtual interviews are available. For further information, please call 847-244-4900 or visit www.coalitionlegal.org.

Coalition Legal LLC Services:

- Coalition Legal helps people expunge or seal eligible criminal records as authorized by Illinois law. We also assist with Clemency Filings to the Governor.
- Collaboration with Waukegan Township for workforce referrals and job placement.
- FBI Background checks and fingerprinting services.

[Fingerprinting services are provided at the Supervisor's Office](#), 149 S. Genesee Street, Waukegan, IL. Individuals needing fingerprint records for the expungement or sealing process would need to first begin the initial sealing process and the attorney will arrange for them to come for fingerprints if needed. There is a fee of \$18 for these services.

Attention: The Lake County Court offers Zoom conference court appearances. Please contact the Coalition Legal LLC at 847-244-4900 for more information regarding court dates and other services.

We Spotlight a Coalition To Reduce Recidivism Member Agency:

Employee Connections, Inc., NFP™

Employee Connections is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit employment education/training agency providing employment education training programs and services that prepare and connect low income and disadvantaged youth and adults with job opportunities.

Agency Contact: Cynthia Harris, Executive Director, Employee Connections
2504 Washington Street - Suite 602, Waukegan, IL 60085. (847) 360-7177

Agency Highlights include:

- Employee Connections is a nonprofit employment and educational training organization that has been in existence for 12 years in the Waukegan area.
- Employee Connection works with youth 16-24 years old, many of whom have criminal records; over the last decade. The agency has placed over 2,000 youth.
- Employee Connections partners with the Lake County Jail to provide computer software training to inmates.

"Inside/Out" is a publication of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, which is based in Lake County, IL. The newsletter intends to raise awareness and discuss issues that affect the lives of men, women and children who are currently incarcerated and/or have been released from incarceration.

The views and opinions included herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the Coalition's Executive Board or its individual members. If you have news or updates for our newsletter, you can send them to: coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com.

How to Reach Us: By Phone: (847) 244-4900, Fax: (874) 244-5185, or email: coalition2rr@waukegantownship.com. Our website is www.reducerecidivism.org. The mailing address is Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, 149 S. Genesee St. Waukegan, IL 60085.



Upcoming Coalition Meetings

Coalition to Reduce Public Meetings are held every third Monday, 8:30am - 10:00am via Zoom.
Meeting ID: 885 0926 3828 - Passcode: 296648

Please consider joining the growing movement in support of the formerly incarcerated. Annual membership dues goes directly to supportive services on their behalf. Membership dues are as follows:

2021 Coalition Members:

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism is a collective unit of social service agencies, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, medical institutions, criminal justice institutions, entrepreneurs, community advocates, governmental entities and repatriates; all geared to work with returning prisoners and help them become productive members of society.

- Corporate Membership \$500
- Faith Base Membership \$500 (Level 3) 301+
- Faith Base Membership \$250 (Level 2) 101 - 300
- Faith Base Membership \$150 (Level 1) 1 – 100
- Agency Membership \$150
- Board of Directors \$100
- Individual Membership \$50
- Seniors (65+)
- Student & Other \$20

Chairperson

- ◆ Patricia Jones, M. Ed.

Honorary Chairmen:

- ◆ Ill. State Representative Rita Mayfield

Coalition Officers:

- ◆ Mary Turley, UMMA Center, President
- ◆ Jennifer Witherspoon, Esq., Immediate Past President
- ◆ Stella Jones, Vice President
Community Renewal Society
- ◆ Warren Thomas, 2nd Vice President
- ◆ College of Lake County
- ◆ Dr. Sylvia Johnson Jones, 2nd Vice President, College of Lake County
- ◆ Arlene Day, Treasurer, Teacher (Retired)
- ◆ Kathryn Vanden Berk, Esq., Secretary, Coalition Legal, LLC.
- ◆ Dr. Gary Oltmans, Legislative Chair, Rosalind Franklin University (Retired)
- ◆ Arlene Day, Treasurer Teacher (Retired)

Executive Committee Members:

- Marc Jones, Waukegan Township

Supervisor

- Gwen Beckwith, Principal (Retired)
- Demar A. Harris, Lake County Workforce Development
- Dr. Mary Roberson, EdD., Executive Director, NIRCO
- Erin Cartwright Weinstein, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Lake County IL
- Johnnie Jenkins, Staff Member

Agencies Members:

- Lake County Veterans & Family Services
- Tenth Congressional District Democrats
- UMMA Center
- Community Partners for Affordable Housing
- Community Renewal Society
- Community Action Partnership of LC
- Southwire
- Faith in Place
- Building Families Together
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
- Warren Township Democrats
- Indivisible Western Lake County

Municipal Members:

- Waukegan Township
- Zion Township
- City of North Chicago
- Shields Township
- Libertyville Township
- Benton Township
- Grant Township
- Vernon Township
- West Deerfield Township

Faith Base Members:

- First Baptist Church of Lake Forest
- Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

Corporate Members:

- ◆ Harris & Harris



Snapshot of Senator Elgie R. Sims, Jr. speaking at a virtual C2RR public meeting.



Employment Specialist Report: Available positions

Full Time Employment; Manufacturing Industries

- Hire Genics
- SouthWire
- TKG Environmental
- Tell US Manufacturing

Staffing Agencies Connected: Administrative/ Secretarial

- Aramark
- Labor Solution
- Express Employment
- Temps Now

Driving (CDL) Retail Food Service

Please contact Johnnie Jenkins,
Employment Specialist for job
opportunities.
Call 847-244-4900 or email
jjenkins@waukegantownship.com

Pictured: Supervisor Patricia Jones receiving her COVID-19 Vaccination at the Oak Street Health Clinic.

For those 65 and older, please call Waukegan Township Park Place at 847-244-9242 or email Lnavo@waukegantownship.com to register or for more information. Transportation provided every Tuesday.

Oak Street Health Clinic will contact you to confirm your appointment for the vaccine.

For those 65 and under:

Registration is now open for the COVID-19 vaccine in Lake County. To create an account, Visit the web address below to get started.

www.allvax.lakecohealth.org/



NIRCO
Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization
Promoting Principles of Recovery

SOMETHING DIFFERENT
ALL RECOVERY MEETING
EVERY TUESDAY @ 6PM

All Are Welcome!
Individual and Families Impacted By
Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health

Virtual Recovery Meeting via ZOOM
Join URL: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/807367112>
Meeting ID: 730-223-943
Passcode: 038490

Prefer to Call In? Dial: 312-626-6799

RECOVER



Can The Formerly Incarcerated Be Free After A Sentence?



Patricia Jones, M.ED
Founder, Chairperson

Recent data confirms that more than 3.3 million people in Illinois could be impacted by permanent punishments as a result of the criminal legal system.

According to the report, “Never Fully Free: The Scale and Impact of Permanent Punishments on People with Criminal Records in Illinois,” those permanent punishments are the numerous laws and barriers aimed at people with records that limit their human rights and restrict access to the crucial resources needed to re-build their lives, such as employment, housing, and education. The report recommends a broad dismantling of permanent punishments, so that those who have been involved with the criminal legal system have the opportunity to fully participate in society.

“Never Fully Free” including data on people with records, videos from people with records, and related infographics is available for download at www.heartlandalliance.org/NeverFullyFree. All data images are to be credited to the Heartland Alliance Social IMPACT Research Center. Contact IMPACT for assistance accessing and interpreting local data. Heartland Alliance’s Social IMPACT Research Center conducts research that helps leaders create change and advance real-world solutions to poverty.

Coalition member, Holly Kerr, recently gave an update at a Coalition to Reduce Recidivism’s Public Meeting. She reported that the “Never Fully Free” Campaign by Heartland Alliance has identified 1,189 Illinois laws that preclude people who have a criminal record from employment, housing, and educational opportunities. She finished by stating that the Campaign will address these inequities.

Along with obtaining suitable housing, finding and maintaining employment can greatly improve the odds of someone who is formerly incarcerated, leading a crime-free, productive life. However, they face the society-wide stigma of being a Repatriate, which severely limits the number of sustainable job opportunities available to them.

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism can help by “standing in the gap”. The Coalition Legal team helps people expunge or seal eligible criminal records as authorized by Illinois law so they can re-integrate back into society and gain access to employment, stable housing and more. There is an enormous untapped pool of people who are entitled to have their records sealed or expunged, but do not have the funds for it, are afraid to ask for it, or do not know they are entitled to it. The Coalition Employment Specialist can offer support for assessment and help with job opportunities. Each year we host an Employment Symposium/Expungement & Record Sealing Workshop and a Coalition Fundraising Luncheon/Employment Fair. Please visit www.waukegantownship.com for upcoming dates.

We know that it takes a village to help each other succeed. However, ultimate change must come from the Repatriate. They can break the cycle by changing their behavior. They must seek out opportunities to improve their situation and put in the work and effort to lead productive lives. Freedom can come if we all work together to break the chains.

Message from President Mary Turley, MBA

I am honored to assume the office of President of the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism. My goals and objectives for 2021 are entirely in line with the mission statement of the organization.

The Coalition to Reduce Recidivism Mission:

To reduce recidivism by assisting citizens with criminal records in becoming productive members of the community. This mission will be accomplished by providing employment placement and supportive services that promotes self-sufficiency.

The Coalition members are social service organizations, educational institutions, medical institutions, criminal justice institutions, community advocates and governmental entities. We assist adults (residing in Lake County, IL) with felony or misdemeanor convictions.

I am looking forward to serving the organization and the C2RR, Lake County, community.

Mary Turley, MBA