

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
MAYORAL PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, every person is endowed with human dignity and value, with redemption and second chances being a part of American values; and

WHEREAS, More than 70 million Americans have a criminal record, including more than 4,000 individuals incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with a criminal history often struggle to find housing, employment, 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, The Council of State Governments reports that the number of legal and regulatory restrictions that limit or prohibit people convicted of crimes from accessing employment, occupational licensing, housing, voting, education and other rights, benefits and opportunities exceeds 44,000, with 599 restrictions specific to Alaska; and

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


WHEREAS, The designation of April as *Second Chance Month* would contribute 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edna DeVries, Mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, do hereby proclaim April 2022 as

Second Chance Month

in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and call upon the people of the Borough to have compassion for those who are trying to start over and to foster opportunities in their communities to support programs that improve the circumstances for fellow Alaskans striving for a Second Chance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to be affixed this 19th day of April, 2022.


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. MCKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk