City seeks to increase participation in ex-offender re-entry program

Employers encouraged to attend January 14th symposium

INDIANAPOLIS – Each year, more than 5,000 ex-offenders are released from prison and return home to Marion County. A significant number eventually end up back in the correctional system. To break this cycle and help ex-offenders transition into positive roles in our community, the City of Indianapolis continues to partner with local businesses to connect pre-qualified ex-offenders with employers and job opportunities.

On January 14, 2009, the city will hold an employer symposium from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Indiana Convention Center. The event is designed to educate employers about the potential community and business benefits that go along with hiring ex-offenders. Local, state and federal government resources are available for employers, and tax credits are available at the federal and state levels.

“If businesses are able to hire even one ex-offender, it can go a long way toward battling crime and improving our neighborhoods,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “This program is about providing opportunities and giving ex-offenders the chance to improve their quality of life by being valued members of the Indianapolis workforce.”

The City of Indianapolis hired 22 ex-offenders after a successful employment fair held this past August. A total of 519 ex-offenders attended that event, and at least 100 have been hired to-date as a result of the city’s re-entry initiative.

Employers interested in attending must RSVP no later than January 9, 2009 by sending an email to desire2hire@indygov.org.

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