



RICHMOND CITY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
RICHMOND CITY JUSTICE CENTER
1701 FAIRFIELD WAY
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23223
C.T. WOODY, JR., SHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Media Contact: Dr. Sarah Scarbrough
Office: (804) 646-0987, Cell: (804) 837-7779

SHERIFF HOSTS JOB PREPARATION GRADUATION FOR INMATES

What: Jobs For Life Graduation for RCJC Inmates

When: Thursday, December 17, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Richmond City Justice Center, 1701 Fairfield Way

RSVP: Interested media must RSVP by 8 a.m. on Thursday, December 17

Sheriff Woody understands that it is no secret that felons have an extremely hard time getting a job; jobs are among the largest obstacles when an offender leaves incarceration and goes back in the community. Research has revealed that those who were formerly incarcerated have a 15 to 30% lower chance of being hired and decreases the annual number of weeks worked by 6 to 11 weeks. This equates to a \$57 to \$65 million dollar impact on lost economic input (Ex-Offenders and the Labor Market, Center for Economic and Policy Research, 2010). A large contributor to this is that employers simply do not want to hire felons. However, another factor is that many offenders do not know how to search for or apply for a job. They do not have skills or knowledge in developing a resume or how to interview. As such, they are released from incarceration without a job and lacking knowledge of how to obtain one, thus being placed back in the same situation they were in prior to incarceration.

As a response, a component of the Internal Program Department's REAL Program is job preparation. The REAL Program has partnered with non-profit organization Into the Neighborhood and other churches to provide Jobs for Life (JFL) for about a dozen REAL Program participants. The goal of JFL is for participants to learn how to gain, maintain and thrive in a job, which provides dignity, value and purpose, verifies identity, creates community, produces jobs, and renews communities and cities. The Jobs for Life program, based in Raleigh, NC, is committed to restoring dignity, changing lives and transforming communities through engaging and equipping the Local Church to address joblessness through the dignity of work.

After participating in 16 2 to 3 hour classes, the first class of Jobs for Life will be graduating this Thursday, December 17, 2015. Graduation will be held in the Richmond City Justice Center. Graduation attendees will include volunteer champions, instructors, and business leaders along with RCJC program staff and family members of the participants. The graduation program consists of

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speeches made by participants and their personal champion, music selections, and presentation of certificates.

All media is invited and encouraged to attend graduation.

About Into the Neighborhood:

A local non-profit, Into The Neighborhood is committed to mobilize prepared people to live out God's mission for their lives and reclaim, restore and rebuild the landscape of their community. Into The Neighborhood gathered countless volunteers from over a dozen churches, including Spring Run Presbyterian, Commonwealth Chapel, Arise RVA, St Giles Church, Hope Church, New Life Empowerment Temple and Life Transformation Church, to champion and encourage participants, instruct and facilitate classes, review and edit resumes and conduct role plays.

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