

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 11, 2021

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Nation Outside

Statement from Nation Outside Program Director Ashley Goldon and Flint Regional Coordinator Johnell Allen Bey on the passage of the Fair Chance Housing Resolution in Flint

FLINT — "Yesterday the Flint City Council unanimously passed a resolution that would move the City of Flint one step closer to ending blanket discrimination against housing applicants who have a criminal record. Local policies like the Fair Chance Housing Ordinance are crucial in helping people with a criminal record re-establish their lives and reintegrate into their communities. It is estimated that about one third of the adult U.S. population has a criminal record, and face significant barriers in securing housing, a livable wage, education, and other needs. Research shows access to safe and affordable housing is the most critical need for formerly incarcerated people, because it is the foundation of one's ability to thrive. It enables them to find work, provide stability for their family, and build a sense of belonging to their community. Finding a home has also been linked to lower rates of recidivism."

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Nation Outside (www.nationoutside.org) is an organization working for criminal justice reform that is led by people who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system. Nation Outside uses community education strategies and civic engagement initiatives to inspire members and the community to get involved in knowledgeable, sustainable, and socially just forms of advocacy to support currently and formerly incarcerated folks, their loved ones, and their communities in order to inspire and create real reform in the criminal justice system.