



VSC Statement in memory of Talib Shakir, Director of the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizens (MORCA)

On behalf of Voices for a Second Chance (VSC), we extend our condolences to Director Talib Shakir's family, loved ones, and the MORCA team. We hold them in our thoughts during this difficult time.

Mr. Shakir was dedicated to ensuring that people returning home from incarceration had access to the resources needed to rebuild their lives. We will forever be grateful for the spirit he brought to this work. He understood the complex needs of individuals transitioning from incarceration. He drew on his own experiences to empower those returning home and to promote access to much-needed investments in the reentry ecosystem. His passing is a profound loss for the District of Columbia and for the many people and communities committed to making reentry a pathway to healing, stability, and opportunity.

At Voices for a Second Chance, we believe that every person deserves dignity, compassion, and the opportunity to move forward. Supporting returning citizens requires champions like Mr. Shakir. We recognize the importance of his work and the loss his passing represents.

May Talib Shakir's legacy remind us of the profound impact of second chances and the importance of investing in and strengthening our communities. Let his legacy ensure everyone has a meaningful opportunity to rebuild their lives and make a vital difference in the District. Let us carry his work forward and strengthen the promise of reentry for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Paula', is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Paula Thompson

President and CEO