

# JANEÉ L. AYERS

## COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE

### **Overview:**

In the fall of 2015 Council Member-at-Large Janee’ Ayers passed a resolution to create the City of Detroit’s Returning Citizens Taskforce to meet the needs of a large population of Detroit residents who are challenged with successfully reintegrating back into the community from the corrections system. Rehabilitating, for the majority of those who have been incarcerated, has not been fully realized due to systemic barriers that returning citizens face upon their release. There is a lack of opportunity when it comes to jobs, housing, transportation, community support, and other aspects of daily life.

The overarching goal of the taskforce is to create a community based “one-stop” that will serve as the main resource for returning citizens once they are released. The City of Detroit is currently constructing a “one-stop” inside of the Michigan Department of Corrections Detroit Reentry Center located at the former Ryan correctional facility. Once released, we want to ensure that the individuals have a mechanism to stay engaged with these same types of resources and the taskforce shall close any gaps in the support these returning citizens receive.

The first action of the taskforce will be to host an informational fair and bring together vendors who currently service the population of returning citizens. We are inviting you to be a part of the discussion at the next meeting that will be held at **6 p.m. on the fourth Monday** at Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation located at 1211 Trumbull St., Detroit, MI 48201. You have been chosen because of the work you currently do to assist returning citizens in overcoming their obstacles. Please let your respective task force contact know if you plan to attend.

### **Mission Statement:**

It is the mission of the Returning Citizens Task Force to provide a variety of services that will help returning citizens adjust to all aspects of life necessary to be successful, personally and professionally, outside of prison. Offering a diversity of services at one location will make it easier and more efficient for our citizens to get a majority of their often neglected needs met. Bringing together entities that are already helping returning citizens will ensure that the task force offers quality services and will allow these entities to collaborate to provide more effective service.