This is being sent in order to support one of the Agency’s initiatives

Please share this with your contacts (i.e. volunteers, friends, church, friends, co-workers, etc.) -

**To Mentor “Returning Citizens”- Veterans**

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is has need for mentors to support incarcerated veterans.

•             Faith-based and community based organizations

•             Private organizations

•             Non-profit organizations

And more…..

Within the first 12 months of an incarcerated veteran release from prison is critical to their not re-offending. The Departments of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) and Maryland's Veteran Affairs(DVA) are recruiting partnerships that will help provide mentoring opportunities for individuals in the Baltimore Metropolitan community.

To improve the incarcerated veteran's successful transition to the community and reduced their recidivism rate, we will need the help of Baltimore's community's organizations, groups and individuals.

***-Ideal mentor would be someone with a current or previous military background; but not mandatory***

For those who are interested- The DPSCS and MDVA have scheduled a telephone conference call for**Thursday, March 28,2013, at 1:00 pm. Call****866 784 3301****. Use pass code 2752062.  PLEASE NOTE: In order to facilitate this conference call most effectively - Please contact Ms. Bailey Perkins before hand, if you are interested @** **BPerkins@dpscs.state.md.us****.**

Hopefully you will join us as we introduce the first phase of this Reentry - Incarcerate Veteran Mentor Partnership Initiative. During the conference call we will discuss:

-mentors' requirements;

-mentors and offenders contact process;

- mentors' assistance to the incarcerated veteran; -incarcerated veterans' needs and the mentor's support; -potential services that may be needed; and -mentor and incarcerated veteran time frame for working together.

The interested mentor volunteers may select an incarcerated veteran based upon their:

-home plan community;

-current and previous convictions; and

-if gender or faith will be an issue.

**Please keep in mind-**

Mentoring is a unique and valuable volunteer service in prisons. It can often be the foundation for fundamental, positive change. Mentoring is provided so that each offender will have a positive influence in life and have a positive contact to assist the offender upon release. Mentoring is intended to enhance personal growth through the sharing of experiences and wisdom and to offer a framework for teaching and modeling values and life skills. Mentoring topics will be geared towards personal growth in ethical behavior and interpersonal relationships.

Potential services include assistance with: transportation to housing upon release; transportation and/or encouragement to attend appointments with Community Supervision Agent, employment services, job interviews, medical and substance abuse; and general advice and assistance.

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