



**CITY OF BEACON
CITY COUNCIL**

RESOLUTION NO. 133 OF 2022

**REQUESTING THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS THE CLEAN SLATE ACT
(S1553C/A6399B)**

WHEREAS, 2.3 million people in New York State have criminal conviction records; and

WHEREAS, people with criminal conviction records face thousands of civil barriers to employment, licensing, housing, and educational opportunities, even long after they have completed their sentences; and

WHEREAS, racial disparities and socio-economic discrimination are rampant throughout the criminal legal system, and both statistical and anecdotal evidence show that convictions for even low-level offenses result in cyclical harm and structural instability for individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, excluding individuals with criminal records from full participation in society through a system of perpetual punishment creates intergenerational trauma and exacerbates racial and economic inequality; and

WHEREAS, Black and Latinx New Yorkers are far more likely to be stopped, arrested, prosecuted, convicted, and incarcerated in the criminal legal system than white New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, people of color are far more likely to be discriminated against based on a conviction record; and

WHEREAS, people who have been to prison lose an average of \$484,400 in earnings over their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, excluding individuals with conviction histories from the workforce costs the economy between \$78 billion and \$87 billion in lost gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, approximately 95% of incarcerated people return to their communities after serving their sentences; and

WHEREAS, giving people access to jobs, housing, education, and licenses to practice a trade increases their participation in the economy and reduces the likelihood that they will return to prison, thereby making our communities safer; and

WHEREAS, only approximately 2,500 of an estimated 600,000 eligible people — or less than 0.5% — have had their records sealed since New York’s current application-based sealing law went into effect in 2017; and

WHEREAS, a system of automatic sealing and expungement of criminal records is essential to provide relief to those who need it most; and

WHEREAS, the “Clean Slate Act” (S1553B/A6399A), sponsored by Senator Zellnor Myrie and Assembly Member Catalina Cruz, would require that most criminal records be sealed automatically after a specified period of time; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Slate Act would remove systemic barriers to stable housing, employment, and education and would allow millions of New Yorkers to participate more fully in civic life and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, numerous other states, including Pennsylvania, Michigan, Utah, and Connecticut, have already passed equivalent “Clean Slate” legislation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Beacon City Council calls on the New York State Legislature to pass the Clean Slate Act, including any appropriate amendments, and for New York State Governor Kathy Hochul to sign such into law.

Resolution No. 133 of 2022			Date: November 7, 2022				
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendments			<input type="checkbox"/> On roll call			<input type="checkbox"/> 2/3 Required	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not on roll call.			<input type="checkbox"/> On roll call			<input type="checkbox"/> 3/4 Required	
Motion	Second	Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Reason	Absent
x		Paloma Wake	x				
		Justice McCray	x				
		George Mansfield					x
	x	Wren Longno	x				
		Molly Rhodes	x				
		Dan Aymar-Blair	x				
		Mayor Lee Kyriacou	x				
		Motion Carried	x				