



October 10, 2023

Interim Finance Committee,

HOPE for Prisoners has been providing pre and post release services in Southern Nevada for well over a decade. Having the great privilege to work with men and women before, during and after paying their debt to society has been a tremendous journey and we are proud of the great success our clients have experienced.

Through unprecedented partnerships we have built up in the community working closely with state agencies including the Nevada Department of Corrections, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles, Nevada Parole Commission, Nevada State Police (Parole and Probation), Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation and countless second chance employers, we are very confident that our Vocational Village project will be a tremendous success.

As you know, there are over 10,000 men and women incarcerated in Nevada state prisons. Over 41% of them are serving a sentence of 10 years or less. The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) releases nearly 6,000 inmates in our state every year and over 70% of these individuals are released right here in Clark County. These numbers do not include federal inmates released in Southern Nevada nor the hundreds of individuals released from our local city and county jails every single day.

HOPE for Prisoners is eager to expand our reentry program that is diverting offenders from returning to prison and reducing recidivism at a cost much lower to the state than incarceration.

In addition to the core services offered through HFP, Vocational Village will prioritize a variety of vocational training options for clients to complete prior to their release. With industry recognized certifications and hands-on experience, HFP clients will begin their reentry journey with a set of skills and the knowledge needed to perform a particular job which increases the likelihood of sustainable wage employment, long term career growth and marketability to industry employers.

The ability to provide vocational training such as welding, plumbing, HVAC, commercial driver's license and electric coupled with cognitive training leadership development mentorship and case management will be instrumental in equipping people coming out of prison with the tools that they need to successfully reenter society and not return back to the system. HOPE for Prisoners has built a successful reentry model that has been operational in the community for years and we are looking forward to bringing that successful model inside the prison system.

We are grateful to have this matter before the Interim Finance Committee today and will keep this committee updated with the tremendous success that we know Vocational Village will produce.

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