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2 3	A BILL
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7	IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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9 10	BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
11	act may be cited as the "Criminal Record Expungement Act of 2006".
12	Sec. 2. Definitions.
13	For purposes of this Act, the term:
14	(1) "Completion of the sentence" means the person has been unconditionally
15	discharged from incarceration, commitment, probation, parole, or supervised release, whichever
16	is latest.
17	(2) "Conviction" means the judgment (sentence) on a verdict or a finding of
18	guilty, a plea of guilty or a plea of nolo contendere; or a plea or verdict of not guilty by reason
19	of insanity.
20	(3) "Disqualifying arrest or conviction" means:
21	(A) A conviction in any jurisdiction after the arrest or conviction for
22	which the motion to expunge has been filed;
23	(B) A pending criminal case in any jurisdiction;
24	(C) A conviction in the District of Columbia for an ineligible felony or
25	ineligible misdemeanor or a conviction in any jurisdiction for an offense that involved conduct
26	that would constitute an ineligible felony or ineligible misdemeanor if committed in the District
27	of Columbia or prosecuted under the District of Columbia Code, or conduct that is substantially
28	similar to that of an ineligible felony or ineligible misdemeanor.

1	(4) "Eligible felony" means:
2	(A) Carrying a pistol without a license (D.C. Official Code § 22-
3	4504(a));
4	(B) Failure to appear (D.C. Official Code § 23-1327);
5	(C) Receiving stolen property (D.C. Official Code § 22-3232); and
6	(D) Unauthorized use of a vehicle (D.C. Official Code § 22-3215).
7	(5) "Eligible misdemeanor" means any misdemeanor that is not an "ineligible
8	misdemeanor."
9	(6) "Ineligible felony" means any felony that is not an "eligible felony."
10	(7) "Ineligible misdemeanor" means:
11	(A) An intrafamily offense, as defined in the Domestic Violence in
12	Romantic Relationships Act of 1996, Law 10-237 (D.C. Official Code § 16-1001(5));
13	(B) Driving while intoxicated, driving under the influence, and operating
14	while impaired (D.C. Official Code § 50-2201.05);
15	(C) A misdemeanor offense for which sex offender registration is
16	required pursuant to the Sex Offender Registration Act of 1999 (D.C Official Code §22-4001),
17	whether or not the registration period has expired;
18	(D) The following offenses involving violence or risk of violence or
19	serious interference with another person:
20	(i) Stalking (D.C. Official Code § 22-404(b));
21	(ii) Criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult (D.C. Official Code § 22-
22	936(a));

1	(iii) Interfering with access to a medical facility (D.C. Official
2	Code § 22-1314.02); and
3	(iv) Possession of a pistol by a convicted felon (D.C. Official
4	Code § 22-4503);
5	(E) The following offenses involving sexual abuse or misconduct or
6	children:
7	(i) Failure to report child abuse (D.C. Official Code § 4-1321.07)
8	(ii) Refusal or neglect of guardian to provide for child under 14
9	years of age (D.C. Official Code § 22-1102);
10	(iii) Lewd, indecent or obscene acts (involving a child) (D.C.
11	Official Code § 22-1312(b); 18 DCMR §§ 1312(b)X and 1312(b)Y);
12	(iv) Disorderly conduct (peeping tom) (D.C. Official Code § 22-
13	1321; 18 DCMR § 1321(1)W);
14	(v) Obscenity (involving minor) (D.C. Official Code § 22-2201);
15	(vi) Misdemeanor sexual abuse (D.C. Official Code § 22-3006);
16	(vii) Misdemeanor child sexual abuse (pending);
17	(viii) Violating the Sex Offender Registration Act (D.C. Official
18	Code § 22-4015);
19	(ix) Violating child labor laws (D.C. Official Code §§ 32-201
20	through 224); and
21	(x) Attempt abducting, pandering, procuring, compelling minors
22	for purposes of prostitution (D.C. Official Code §§ 22-1803, 2704, 2706, 2707, 2710, 2711, or
23	2712 (pending));

1	(F) T	The following offenses involving theft or dishonesty:
2		(i) Election/Petition fraud (D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.08);
3		(ii) Public assistance fraud (D.C. Official Code § 4-218.01
4	through 218.05);	
5		(iii) Trademark counterfeiting (D.C. Official Code § 22-
6	902(b)(2));	
7		(iv) Attempt trademark counterfeiting (D.C. Official Code §§ 22-
8	1803, 22-902);	
9		(v) Fraud (D.C. Official Code § 22-3222 (b)(2));
10		(vi) Attempt fraud (D.C. Official Code §§ 22-1803, 3222);
11		(vii) Credit card fraud (D.C. Official Code § 22-3223 (d)(2));
12		(viii) Attempt credit card fraud (D.C. Official Code § 22-1803,
13	3223);	
14		(ix) Misdemeanor insurance fraud (pending);
15		(x) Attempt insurance fraud (D.C. Official Code §§ 22-1803,
16	3225.02, .03);	
17		(xi) Telephone fraud (D.C. Official Code §§ 22-3226.06,
18	3226.10(3));	
19		(xii) Attempt telephone fraud (D.C. Official Code §§ 22-1803,
20	3226.06, 3226.10);	
21		(xiii) Identity theft, second degree (D.C. Official Code § 22-
22	3227.02, 3227.03(b));	

1	(xiv) Attempt identify theft (D.C. Official Code §§ 22-1803,
2	3227.02, 3226.03);
3	(xv) Fraudulent statements or failure to make statements to
4	employee (D.C. Official Code § 47-4104);
5	(xvi) Fraudulent withholding information or failure to supply
6	information to employer (D.C. Official Code § 47-4105);
7	(xvii) Fraud and false statements (D.C. Official Code § 47-4106);
8	(xviii) False statement/dealer certificate (D.C. Official Code § 50
9	1501.04a3 X); and
10	(xix) False information/registration (D.C. Official Code § 50
11	1501.04a3Y);
12	(G) The following offenses involving traffic violations:
13	(i) No school bus driver's license (18 DCMR § 200.1);
14	(ii) False statement on DMV document (18 DCMR § 1104.1);
15	(iii) No permit - 2 <sup>nd</sup> or greater offense (D.C. Official Code § 50
16	1401(d));
17	(iv) Altered title (18 DCMR § 1104.3);
18	(v) Altered registration (18 DCMR § 1104.4); and
19	(vi) No commercial drivers license (50 DCMR § 405);
20	(H) A violation of a professional licensing regulation when a person is
21	applying for a license in that field;
22	(I) A violation of building and housing code regulations;
23	(J) A violation of the Public Utility Commission regulations; and

1	(K) Attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing offenses (D.C.
2	Official Code § 22-1803, 1805a).
3	(8) "Minor offense" means a traffic offense, disorderly conduct, or an offense
4	that is punishable by a fine only, excluding any ineligible misdemeanor.
5	(9) "Public" means any person, agency, organization, or entity other than:
6	(A) Any court;
7	(B) Any federal, state, or local prosecutor;
8	(C) Any law enforcement agency;
9	(D) Any licensing agency with respect to an offense that may disqualify a
10	person from obtaining that license;
11	(E) Any school, day care center, before or after school facility or other
12	educational or child protection agency or facility;
13	(F) Any government employer or nominating or tenure commission with
14	respect to:
15	(i) employment of a judicial or quasi-judicial officer, or
16	(ii) employment at a senior level government position.
17	Sec. 3. Expungement of criminal records on grounds of actual innocence.
18	(a) A person arrested for or charged with the commission of a criminal offense pursuant
19	to the District of Columbia Code or Municipal Regulations whose prosecution has been
20	terminated without conviction may file a motion with the Clerk of the Superior Court at any
21	time to expunge records of the arrest and related court proceedings on grounds of actual
22	innocence.
23	(b) The burden is on the movant to establish that:

- (1) The offense for which the person was arrested or charged did not occur; or
- (2) The movant did not commit the offense.

- (c) If the motion is filed within four years after the prosecution has been terminated, the movant must satisfy the burden described in subsection (b) by a preponderance of the evidence.
- (d) If the motion is filed more than four years after the prosecution has been terminated, the movant must satisfy the burden described in subsection (b) by clear and convincing evidence.
- (e) In determining such motions, the court may, but is not required to, employ a rebuttable presumption that the movant is not entitled to relief if the court finds that the government has been substantially prejudiced in its ability to respond to the motion by the delay in its filing, unless the movant shows that the motion is based on grounds which the person could not have raised by the exercise of reasonable diligence before the circumstances prejudicial to the government occurred.
- (f) An acquittal does not establish a presumption that the movant is innocent or entitled to relief pursuant to this section.
- (g) A person whose conviction has been vacated pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 22-4135(g)(2), and whose subsequent prosecution is terminated without conviction may file a motion with the Clerk of the Superior Court pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or any other provision of law.
- (h) A person who is found to be actually innocent pursuant to this section or D.C. Official Code § 22-4135(g)(3), shall be entitled to the following relief with respect to such count or counts:

the law enforcement agency responsible for the arrest and/or the Metropolitan Police

Department all records of the movant's arrest in their central files, including without limitation all photographs, fingerprints, and other identification data. The Court shall also direct the prosecutor to arrange for the elimination of any computerized record of the movant's arrest.

However, the Court shall expressly allow the prosecutor and the law enforcement agency to maintain a record of the arrest so long as the record is not retrievable by the identification of the movant. The court shall also order the prosecutor to request that the law enforcement agency responsible for the arrest retrieve any of the aforementioned records which were disseminated to pretrial services, corrections, and other law enforcement agencies, and to collect these records when retrieved.

(2) The court shall order the prosecutor to file with the Clerk of the Superior Court, within 60 days, all records collected by the law enforcement agency and in the prosecutor's own possession. These records shall be accompanied by a certification that to the best of the prosecutor's knowledge and belief no further records exist in the prosecutor's own possession and in the possession of the law enforcement agency's central records files or those of its disseminees, or that, if such records do exist, steps have been taken to retrieve them. The Court shall order the Clerk to collect all Superior Court records pertaining to the movant's arrest and cause to be purged any computerized record of such arrest. However, the Court shall expressly allow the Clerk to maintain a record of the arrest so long as the record is not retrievable by the identification of the movant. The Court shall also order the Clerk to file under seal all Superior Court records so retrieved, together with all records filed by the prosecutor pursuant to this paragraph, within 7 days after receipt of such records.

(3) The Court shall summarize in the order the factual circumstances of the challenged arrest and any post-arrest occurrences it deems relevant, and, if the facts support such a conclusion, shall rule as a matter of law that the movant did not commit the offense for which the movant was arrested or that no offense had been committed. A copy of the order shall be provided to the movant or his or her counsel. The movant may obtain a copy of the order at any time from the Clerk of the Court, upon proper identification, without a showing of need.

- (4) In a case involving co-defendants in which the Court orders the movant's records sealed, the Court may order that only those records, or portions thereof, relating solely to the movant be sealed. The Court shall order that the movant's name be redacted to the extent practicable from records that are not sealed. The Court may make an in camera inspection of these records in order to make this determination. The Court need not order the redaction of references to the movant that appear in a transcript of court proceedings involving the co-defendant(s). After references to the movant have been sanitized as provided for herein, the Court shall order those records relating to co-defendants returned to the prosecutor or the Clerk.
- (5) The Court shall not order the redaction of the movant's name from any published opinion of the trial or appellate courts that refer to the movant.
- (6) The Clerk of the Superior Court shall place the records ordered sealed by the Court in a special file, appropriately and securely indexed in order to protect its confidentiality. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the Clerk shall reply in response to inquiries concerning the existence of records which have been sealed pursuant to this statute that no records are available.

- (i) The effect of relief pursuant to this section shall be to restore the movant, in the contemplation of the law, to the status he or she occupied before being arrested and/or charged. No person as to whom such relief has been granted shall be held thereafter under any provision of law to be guilty of perjury or otherwise giving a false statement by reason of failure to recite or acknowledge his or her arrest, or charge, or trial in response to any inquiry made of him or her for any purpose.
  - Sec. 4. Expungement of public criminal records in other cases.

- (a) A person arrested for, or charged with, the commission of an eligible misdemeanor pursuant to the District of Columbia Code or Municipal Regulations whose prosecution has been terminated without conviction may file a motion to expunge the publicly available records of the arrest and related court proceedings if:
- (1) A period of at least two year(s) has elapsed since the termination of the case; and
  - (2) The movant does not have a disqualifying arrest or conviction.
- (b) A person arrested for, or charged with, the commission of any other offense pursuant to the District of Columbia Code or Municipal Regulations whose prosecution has been terminated without conviction may file a motion to expunge the publicly available records of the arrest and related court proceedings if:
- (1) A period of at least five years has elapsed since the termination of the case; and
  - (2) The movant does not have a disqualifying arrest or conviction.

(c) A person who has been convicted of an eligible misdemeanor or an eligible felony pursuant to the District of Columbia Code or Municipal Regulations may file a motion to expunge the publicly available records of the- arrest, related court proceedings, and conviction if:

- (1) A period of at least seven years has elapsed since the completion of the movant's sentence; and
  - (2) The movant does not have a disqualifying arrest or conviction.
- (d) The waiting periods in subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, before which a motion to expunge cannot be filed, must be satisfied with respect to all of the movant's arrests and/or conviction unless the movant waives in writing the right to seek expungement of an arrest or conviction as to which the prescribed waiting period has not elapsed.
- (e) The waiting periods in subsections (a), (b),and (c) of this section may be waived by the prosecutor in writing.
- . (f) The movant must seek to expunge all eligible arrests or conviction in the same proceeding unless the movant waives in writing the right to seek expungement with respect to a particular conviction or arrest(s).
- (g) In determining whether a movant is eligible to file a motion to expunge because of a conviction, arrest, or pending charge, minor offenses shall not be considered.
- (h) The Superior Court shall grant a motion to expunge if it is in the interests of justice to do so. In making this determination, the Court shall weigh the interests of the movant in expunging the publicly available records of his or arrest, related court proceedings, and/or conviction; the community's interest in retaining access to those records, including the interest of current or prospective employers in making fully informed hiring or job assignment decisions

1	and the interest in promoting public safety, and the community's interest in furthering the
2	movant's rehabilitation and enhancing the movant's employability. In making this decision, the
3	Court may consider:
4	(1) the nature and circumstances of the offense at issue;
5	(2) the movant's role in the offense or alleged offense and, in cases terminated
6	without conviction, the weight of the evidence against the person;
7	(3) the history and characteristics of the movant, including but not limited to the
8	movant's:
9	(A) character;
10	(B) physical and mental condition;
11	(C) employment history;
12	(D) prior and subsequent conduct;
13	(E) history relating to drug or alcohol abuse or dependence and treatment
14	opportunities;
15	(F) criminal history; and
16	(G) efforts at rehabilitation;
17	(4) the number of the arrests or conviction that are the subject of the motion;
18	(5) the time that has elapsed since the arrests or conviction that are the subject of
19	the motion;
20	(6) whether the movant has previously obtained expungement or comparable
21	relief under this section or any other provision of law other than by reason of actual innocence;
22	and
23	(7) any statement made by the victim of the offense.

(i) In a motion filed under subsection (a), the burden shall be on the prosecutor to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that it is not in the interests of justice to grant relief. In a motion filed under subsection (b), the burden shall be on the movant to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that it is in the interests of justice to grant relief. In a motion filed under subsection (c), the burden shall be on the movant to establish by clear and convincing evidence that it is in the interests of justice to grant relief.

- (j) A motion to expunge made pursuant to this section may be dismissed without prejudice to permit the movant to renew the motion after further passage of time. The Court may set a waiting period before a renewed motion can be filed.
- (k) A motion to expunge made pursuant to this section may be dismissed if it appears that the movant has unreasonably delayed filing the motion and that the government has been prejudiced in its ability to respond to the motion by the delay in its filing, unless the movant shows that the motion is based on grounds which the person could not have raised by the exercise of reasonable diligence before the circumstances prejudicial to the government occurred.
  - (1) If the Court grants the motion to expunge, the Court shall order:
- (1) The prosecutor, any law enforcement agency, and any pretrial, corrections, or community supervision agency to remove from their publicly available records all references that identify the movant as having been arrested, prosecuted, and/or convicted. The prosecutor's office and agencies shall be entitled to retain any and all records relating to the movant's arrest and/or conviction in a non-public file. The prosecutor's office shall file a certification with the Court within 90 days that, to the best of the prosecutor's knowledge and belief, all references that identify the movant as having been arrested, prosecuted, and/or

convicted have been removed from the publicly available records of the prosecutor's office and the affected agencies.

- (2) The Clerk to remove or eliminate all publicly available Superior Court records that identify the movant as having been arrested, prosecuted and/or convicted. The Clerk shall be entitled to retain any and all records relating to the movant's arrest, related court proceedings, and/or conviction in a non-public file.
  - (3) In a case involving co-defendants in which the Court orders the movant's records expunged, the Court may order that only those records, or portions thereof, relating solely to the movant be redacted. The Court need not order the redaction of references to the movant that appear in a transcript of court proceedings involving the co-defendant(s).
  - (4) The Court shall not order the redaction of the movant's name from any published opinion of the trial or appellate courts that refer to the movant.
  - (5) Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the Clerk and any other agency shall reply in response to inquiries from the public concerning the existence of records which have been expunged pursuant to this Act that no records are available.
  - (m) No person as to whom such relief has been granted shall be held thereafter under any provision of law to be guilty of perjury or otherwise giving a false statement by reason of failure to recite or acknowledge his or her arrest, or charge, or trial or conviction in response to any inquiry made of him or her for any purpose except that the expungement of records under this provision does not relieve a person of the obligation to disclose the expunged arrest or conviction in response to any direct question asked in connection with jury service or in response to any direct question contained in any questionnaire or application for a position with any person, agency, organization, or entity defined in Section 2(9)(A) (F).

Sec. 5. Motion to expunge.

- (a) A motion to expunge filed with the court pursuant to this chapter shall state grounds upon which eligibility for expungement is based and facts in support of the person's claim. It shall be accompanied by a statement of points and authorities in support thereof. The person may also file any appropriate exhibits, affidavits, and supporting documents.
- (b) A motion pursuant to Section 4 must state all of the movant's arrests and convictions and must either (1) seek relief with respect to all arrests and any conviction eligible for relief or (2) waive in writing the right to seek expungement of the records pertaining to any omitted arrest(s) or conviction, including any arrest(s) or conviction as to which the relevant waiting periods in subsections 4(a), (b), and (c) have not elapsed. If the motion does not comply with this requirement or the waiting period has not elapsed for any arrest or conviction that is eligible for expungement, then the motion shall be dismissed without prejudice unless the person executes a written waiver with respect to that arrest or conviction.
  - (c) A copy of the motion shall be served upon the prosecutor.
- (d) The prosecutor shall not be required to respond to the motion unless ordered to do so by the court.
  - Sec. 6. Review by court.
- (a) If it plainly appears from the face of the motion, any accompanying exhibits and documents, and the record of any prior proceedings in the case, that the person is not eligible for relief or is not entitled to relief, the court, may dismiss or deny the motion. In the event the motion is not dismissed or denied after initial review, the court shall order the prosecutor to file a response to the motion.

1	(b) Upon the filing of the prosecutor's response, the court shall determine whether a
2	hearing is required.
3	(c) If the court determines that a hearing is required, the hearing shall be scheduled
4	promptly.
5	(d) At the hearing, the person and the prosecutor may present witnesses and information
6	by proffer or otherwise. Hearsay evidence shall be admissible.
7	(e) An order dismissing, granting or denying the motion shall be in writing and include
8	reasons.
9	(f) The court shall not be required to entertain a second or successive motion for similar
10	relief on behalf of the same movant regarding the same offense(s), arrest(s) or conviction unless
11	the previous motion was dismissed or denied without prejudice.
12	(g) An order dismissing, granting or denying a motion for expungement is a final order
13	for purposes of appeal.
14	Sec. 7. Availability of expunged records.
15	(a) Records sealed on grounds of actual innocence pursuant to Section 3 shall be opened
16	only on order of the Court upon a showing of compelling need, except that the movant shall be
17	entitled to a copy of the sealed records upon request. A request for access to such sealed
18	records may be made ex parte.
19	(b) Records retained in a non-public file pursuant to Section 4 shall be available:
20	(1) To any court, prosecutor, or law enforcement agency for any lawful purpose,
21	including but not limited to:
22	(A) The investigation or prosecution of any offense;

1	(B) Determining whether a person is eligible to have an arrest or
2	conviction expunged;
3	(C) Determining conditions of release for a subsequent arrest;
4	(D) Determining whether a person has committed a second or subsequent
5	offense for charging or sentencing purposes;
6	(E) Determining an appropriate sentence if the person is subsequently
7	convicted of another crime; and
8	(F) Employment decisions.
9	(2) For use in civil litigation relating to the arrest or conviction;
10	(3) Upon order of the Court for good cause shown;
11	(4) To any person or entity identified in Section 2(9)(D), (E), or (F), but only to
12	the extent that such records would have been available to such persons or entities before relief
13	under Section 4 was granted. Such records may be used for any lawful purpose, including but
14	not limited to:
15	(A) Determining whether a person is eligible to be licensed in a particular
16	trade or profession; and
17	(B) Employment decisions.
18	(5) To the movant or the authorized representative of the movant upon request,
19	but only to the extent that such records would have been available to the movant before relief
20	under Section 4 was granted
21	Sec. 8. Savings provision.
22	This Act does not supersede any other provision of the D.C. Official Code providing for
23	the expungement, sealing, or setting aside of criminal arrests or convictions.

1	Sec. 9. Conforming amendments.
2	(a) Section 204 of Title II of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedures Act,
3	effective March 25, 1977 (D.C. Law 1-96; D.C. Official Code § 2-534) is amended by adding a
4	new paragraph to read as follows:
5	"(13) Information that is ordered expunged and restricted from public access pursuant to the
6	"Criminal Records Expungement Act of 2006".
7	(b) Chapter 19 of Title 23 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as
8	follows:
9	(1) Section 23-1901 is amended as follows:
10	(A) Subsection (b)(4) is amended to read as follows:
11	"(4) Be present at all court proceedings related to the offense, including the
12	sentencing, and release, parole, expungement, and post-conviction hearings, unless the court
13	determines that testimony by the victim would be materially affected if the victim heard other
14	testimony or where the needs of justice otherwise require.".
15	(B) Subsection (b)(7) is amended to read as follows:
16	"(7) Information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, detention,
17	and release of the offender, and about any court order to expunge the offender's criminal
18	records.".
19	(2) Section 23-1902(d)(1) is amended to read as follows:
20	"(1) Scheduling of a release, parole, expungement, or post-conviction hearing for the
21	offender.".
22	(3) Section 23-1904 is amended as follows:
23	(A) Subsection (a) is amended to read as follows:

1	"(a) Crime victims shall have the right to be present at the defendant's
2	sentencing, release, parole, post-conviction, and expungement hearings.".
3	(B) Subsection (e) is amended to read as follows:
4	"(e) Crime victims shall have the right to make a statement at the defendant's
5	sentencing and expungement hearings. The absence of the crime victim shall not preclude the
6	court from holding the sentencing or expungement hearings.".
7	Sec. 10. Fiscal impact statement.
8	The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Chief Financial Officer as the fiscal
9	impact statement required be section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
10	approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat, 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).
11	Sec. 11. Effective date.
12	This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
13	Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as
14	provided in section 602(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
15	24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(2)), and publication in the District of
16	Columbia Register.