

PROJECT CLEAN SLATE THE DEN

AN EXPUNGEMENT NEWSLETTER

June 25, 2025



PROJECT
Clean Slate



Newsletter Highlights

15,000
expungements

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Thanking PCS
partners

Staff Spotlight

Welcome Back!

The Project Clean Slate (PCS) team has been hard at work expunging records and setting new team goals. PCS reached the milestone of expunging 15,000 convictions in April 2025, and that number continues to climb. The PCS team did not meet this goal alone, however. In this issue of The Den, PCS highlights the work the team has done, PCS partners and supporters, and PCS clients - whom the team is honored to serve.



Contact us

Call: 313-237-3024

Email: projectcleanslate@detroitmi.gov

Text: projectcleanslate@detroitmi.gov



City of Detroit Employees

We are pleased to announce that we have opened PCS to include all City of Detroit employees, regardless of residency. To sign up, please scan the QR code below.



Celebrating 15,000 Expungements

On June 10, 2025, PCS held a celebration recognizing 15,000 expungements for Detroit residents. Over 200 attendees participated in the event, including clients, court officials, members of the Detroit Police Department and Michigan State Police, and invited guests.

Guest speakers included Deputy Mayor Melia Howard, Police Chief Todd Bettison, Corporation Counsel Conrad Mallett, and Presiding Judge of the 3rd Circuit Court criminal bench, Hon. Donald Knapp. Clients Autumn Thompson and Richard Walker also spoke at event, sharing their experiences with PCS and letting the audience know how expungement has impacted their lives.

Chief Bettison spoke about the importance of PCS' work for the Detroit community.

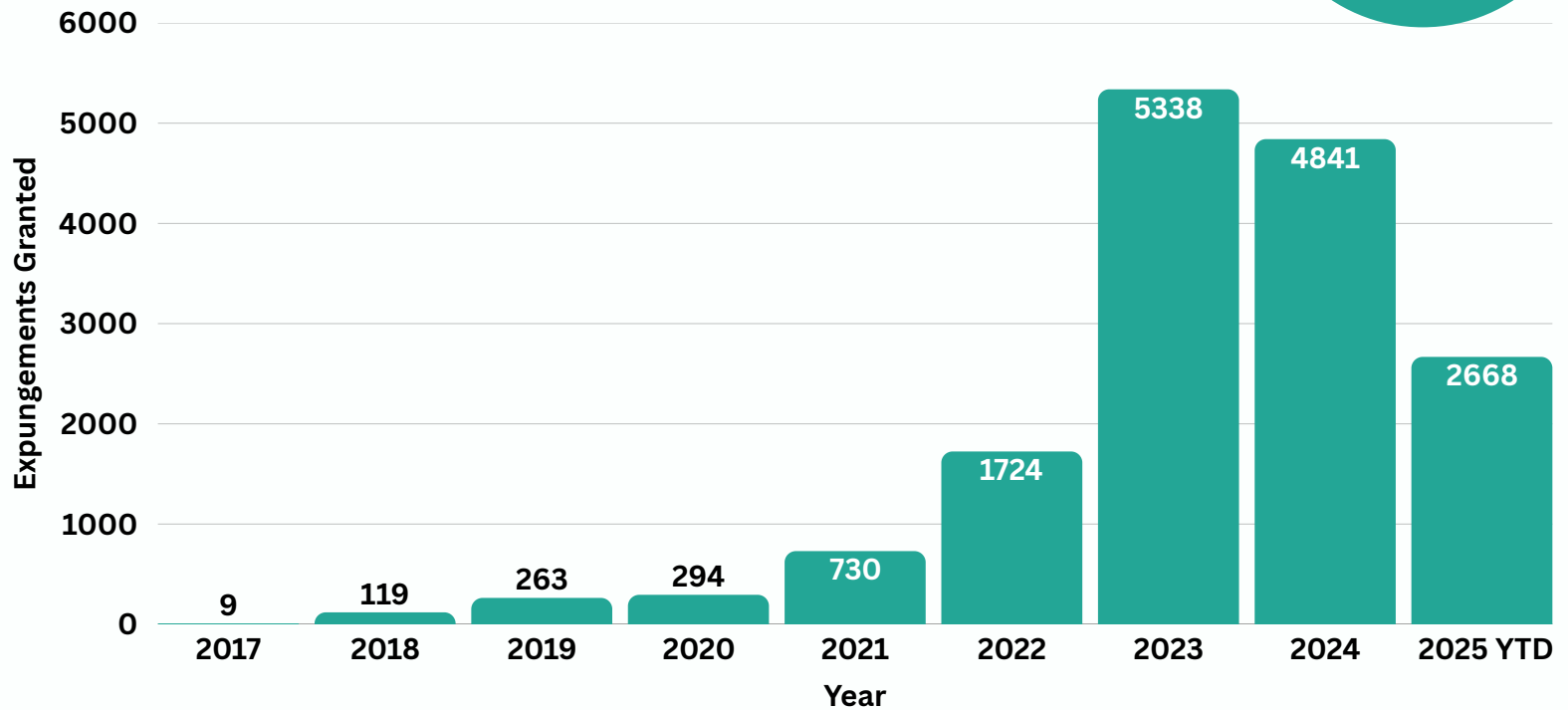
"We truly believe that Detroiters deserve a second chance," Bettison said. "You don't have to have that burden around your neck because when you've paid your debt to society, you deserve a fresh start."



PCS METRICS

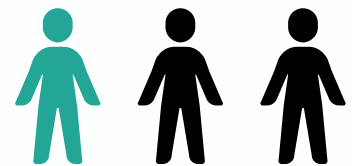
Number of Convictions Expunged

98%
Expungement
Success Rate



Metrics 2025 YTD

Registered	3,435
Applications Filed	2,460
Convictions Expunged	2,705



One in three Detroiters has a conviction on their record, which can create barriers when seeking new housing, employment, and educational opportunities. If you know a Detroiters who may benefit from our FREE expungement program, please direct them to www.detroitmi.gov/pcs to register.

SHARE YOUR STORY



Client Autumn Thompson and her family at PCS' 15,000 expungement celebration.

At the PCS 15,000 expungement celebration, clients sat down with a PCS team member and shared their stories. Clients spoke about the impact expungement has had on their lives and the lives of their family members.

The stories were inspiring; now PCS wants to hear from you! If you are a former PCS client, please share your story with us!

www.detroitmi.gov/PCSshareyourstory

“Thank God for you guys. If it wasn't for you, I don't know where I'd be right now. I couldn't even get my medication (before my expungement) because I had no insurance.”

Client, Michael Yarbrough

A STORY OF REDEMPTION

Marvin Smith was released from prison in 1996. After serving his sentence, Smith's criminal record followed him for decades, which created obstacles in his life. He said there was a time when he and his wife applied to rent a house, but he was rejected due to his felonies.

“My wife was looking at me like, because of your felonies, we can't proceed on this,” Smith said. “I've been looked at like a failure because of these felonies.” However, Smith heard about Project Clean Slate on the news and registered for the program. He found the expungement process easy and organized. Through PCS, Smith was able to get his record expunged. “I learned my lesson,” Smith said. “I have a family, four children, a lovely wife, belong to a church, have a good job, and nice house. Everything is beautiful now.”

Staff Spotlight

DAVID CAHANA, PROJECT MANAGER

David began working for PCS in January 2024. David has extensive experience in the nonprofit field, specifically working with the homeless community. He was drawn to PCS by his desire to help give people a second chance.



"The folks we work with have paid their debts," David said. "The fact that people are still being punished long after these things happen is unfair, so I think it's important that we remove those barriers so that everybody has the same chances."

As Project Manager, David works behind the scenes to facilitate and improve the processes PCS relies on. He enjoys working with the team and said one of the highlights of his time here has been watching the program grow.

Want PCS to attend your event?

If there is a community event that you would like Project Clean Slate to attend, please fill out the form, linked below.

www.detroitmi.gov/pcseventrequest



Thank You To Our Partners

Expunging 15,000 convictions is no small feat; it takes collaboration and a shared commitment to creating second chances. We are sincerely grateful to all who have supported us in making this milestone a reality.

It would not have happened without the support of our valued partners, including (but not limited to): the Detroit Police Department, Detroit At Work, Ballmer Group, Bloomberg Associates, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Michigan Department of the Attorney General, Detroit Future City, Detroit Pistons, Hudson-Webber Foundation, Michigan Justice Fund, Michigan State Police, Sam Bernstein Law Firm, The Simon Foundation, the University of Michigan, and more.

The PCS team thanks our partners for helping make fresh starts a reality.