

NEWS



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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Thursday, February 21, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYOR NUTTER ANNOUNCES RON CUIE TO LEAD PHILADELPHIA'S RE-ENTRY PROGRAM (PREP)

SENATOR SPECTER TO ANNOUNCE FEDERAL LEGISLATION MODELED AFTER PREP

Philadelphia, February 21 – Mayor Michael A. Nutter announced today that Mr. Ronald L. Cuie has been appointed as Director of the Mayor's Office for the Re-Entry of Ex-Offenders and will lead Philadelphia's efforts to re-integrate ex-offenders into the workforce.

Mayor Nutter made the announcement at a press conference at City Hall with United States Senator Arlen Specter after a meeting in the Mayor's Office to discuss crime reduction, re-entry and mentoring. Senator Specter gave details of his Employment Access for Recidivism Reduction Nationwide (EARN) Act which will be introduced next week when Congress returns. This legislation will, among other initiatives, create a pilot re-entry program modeled after the Philadelphia Re-Entry Program (PREP) to provide tax credits to encourage long-term, sustainable employment of ex-offenders.

"Providing a second chance to ex-offenders who are looking to turn their lives around is something that I have felt passionately about for a long time," said Mayor Nutter. "Ron Cuie has made some mistakes in his life, but he has served his time and is looking to continue to help others rehabilitate and make a contribution to society. I am very pleased that he has agreed to join my administration."

In March 2000 Ron Cuie was convicted of aggravated assault, robbery, unlawful restraint, false imprisonment and criminal conspiracy. He served approximately three years in prison during which time he worked with correctional staff to develop processes for the habilitation and rehabilitation of inmates.

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Following his release in 2003, he has worked with a number of organizations such as Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Pennsylvania Board of Probation & Parole, St. Joseph's University and the City of Philadelphia to develop re-entry initiatives and programs.

"I am humbled and privileged to serve the City of Philadelphia and its communities as Director for the Mayor's Office of Ex-offenders," said Ron Cuie. "Through this second chance afforded me by Mayor Nutter I look forward to help rebuild the lives of those like myself who have been incarcerated. A major element of my work will be targeted towards reducing recidivism which will contribute towards increased public safety for all citizens. I look forward to partnering with the various stakeholders concerned about the quality of life in Philadelphia's neighborhoods."

Mr. Cuie served as a Deputy Mayor for the City of Philadelphia under Mayor Rendell. He was responsible for special events, boards and commissions and serving as a liaison with the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. He also served as a Deputy Managing Director responsible for emergency management and the 'Clean Philadelphia Program' and as an Assistant Managing Director responsible for community outreach under Mayor Goode. Since 2003 Mr. Cuie has consulted with non-profit organizations in the Philadelphia region working to provide support for marginalized citizens. He also worked with the City of Philadelphia to develop plans to provide services for ex-offenders.

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