

10,000 Expungements!

The DEN

Project Clean Slate's Detroit Expungement Newsletter

WELCOME BACK!

Project Clean Slate (PCS) has helped Detroiters expunge more than 10,000 convictions since Mayor Mike Duggan created PCS in 2016. In this issue we'll explore how PCS has grown over the years, our progress towards our goals, and what that has meant to Detroiters who have participated in our program

Read on to learn more about PCS' history, present, and future while hearing from the people who make this program a success!

METRICS YTD

Detroiters Registered	5,437
Applications Filed	1,659
Expungements Granted	1,945

Newsletter Highlights

10,000
EXPUNGEMENTS

IN THEIR OWN
WORDS

MEET THE PCS TEAM

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OUR HISTORY

One out of every three people in Detroit have a conviction on their record, which creates barriers to opportunities like employment, housing, and education.

It used to be unnecessarily difficult and expensive to receive a criminal record expungement. That's why Mayor Duggan created Project Clean Slate (PCS) in 2016. PCS handles the process for Detroiters from start to finish - for free!

In 2021, new legislation championed by Mayor Duggan made eligibility requirements for expungement easier. That, in turn, expanded the number of Detroiters that could apply for the program. Over 30,000 Detroiters have registered for PCS since 2016,

In Their Own Words:

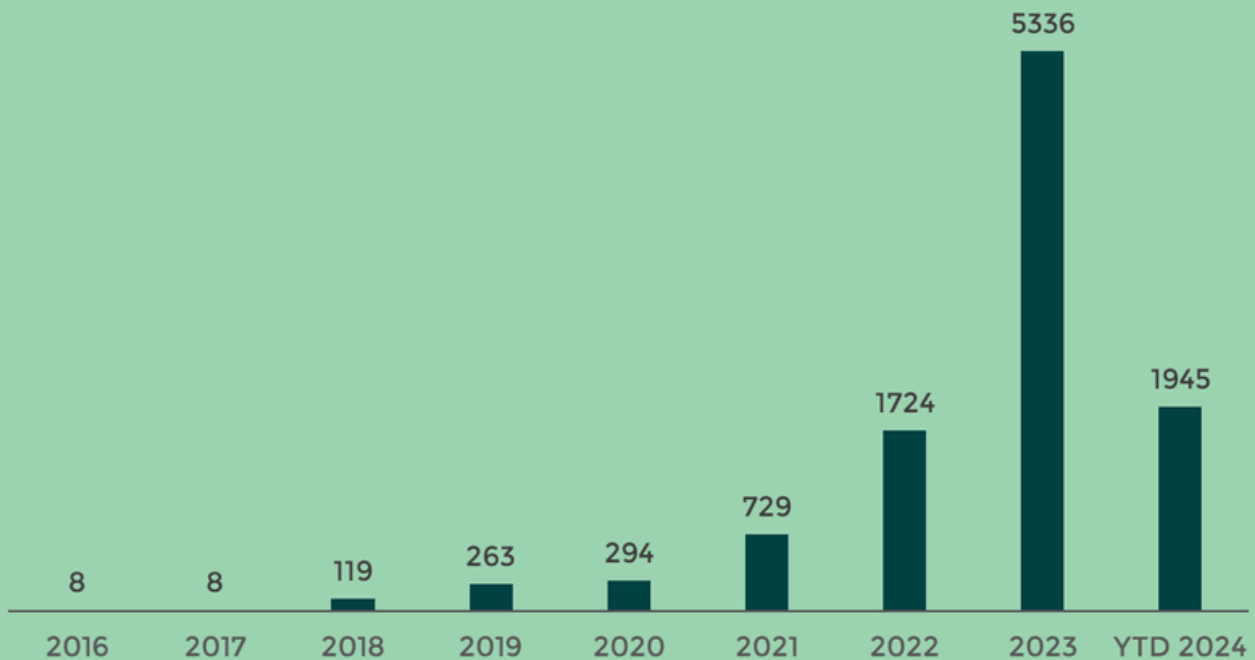
"It's like a dream come true because now I can actually work. I can even volunteer at my children's or grandchildren's school. . . I always knew one day I would see brighter days and having my record expunged did just that"

-Ta'Londa



OUR PROGRESS

Despite having a small staff, since 2016 PCS has significantly increased the number of Detroiters with whom we work. **This graph shows the number of expungements from our first year through today:**



In Their Own Words:

“Without the help of Project Clean Slate...I think I would be going through the same cycle over and over again. I actually walked out of the court room with my eyes watering up.”

-Brandon



OUR FUTURE

10,000 expungements is a lot, but it isn't nearly enough for us. This year, PCS plans to expunge another 5,000 convictions, and file 4,000 expungement applications.

There are thousands of Detroiters who are eligible to receive expungement, and PCS wants to make sure that each of them has access to the opportunities that expungement provides.

PCS has grown a lot since 2016, hiring more staff and streamlining our processes with courts to make sure that receiving an expungement through us is a quick and easy process.

We look forward to our continued growth while serving Detroit!

In Their Own Words:

"I felt a huge burden lifted off me and so grateful that there is still people who don't hold your past against you for your whole life."

-Stephen

CLIENT CORNER



Richard Walker, son of former Detroit Lion Dick “Night Train” Lane, was facing life in prison, and his defense lawyer wanted to make sure that he got it. That’s because his lawyer stole \$40,000 from Richard and hid evidence that would have proven his innocence. Richard was sentenced to life in prison, but never gave up hope, continuing to fight for his freedom behind bars. Eventually, Richard was resentenced and released from prison. His lawyer was disbarred, but Richard’s criminal conviction remained.



With the help of Project Clean Slate, Richard was able to expunge his record in 2024. He accompanied the PCS team to a Federal Bar Association event, where he spoke about his experience in the criminal justice system and his expungement with PCS. By chance, Richard was seated next to retired Judge Timothy Kenny, who happened to be the Prosecutor on his decades-old case. Judge Kenny and Richard had an impactful conversation and discovered a way they can work together. Judge Kenny sits on the Board of the Wayne County Jail Ministry and is working to connect returning citizens to the Dick Night Train Lane Career Center, an organization Richard created to empower individuals through the development of marketable job skills.

MEET THE PCS TEAM

Each month, the PCS Team has a Spirit Day. In February we participated in Closet Gems day. The team wore items they did not often have the opportunity to wear or items they have kept for many years because they are so well-loved.

Nakella, our records clerk, wore her Black History Month outfit to Closet Gems day, and it is safe to say that she stole the show!

Way to celebrate Black History Month, Nakella! We love the City of Detroit flag in the background!

