



**Dave:** You know, I don't know what's going on.

**Speaker 2:** Man, you sound like you're done, you're about to go, you're about to touch down, bruh, about to get good. Man, you can't stress out over it, bruh.

**Dave:** Man, I'm supposed to pay going on. I don't know what's going on.

**Speaker 2:** How do you get out of this situation?

**Dave:** I ain't got nothing, man. I ain't got nothing.

**Speaker 2:** Shoot, man. [unintelligible 00:00:25] is joining Ready Center so you might want to holler at them. You got your ID and all that?

**Dave:** No, I don't got nothing, man.

**Speaker 2:** It makes sense to stop over there. I think they get you ID, food stamps, Medicaid, stuff like that. I got to get you a project [unintelligible 00:00:43]

**Dave:** No way. [siren] I'm just trying to get everything I can get, man.

**Speaker 2:** You just got to holler at your case manager.

**Dave:** I don't know why he hasn't came to see me.

**Speaker 2:** Hey man, they have a lot of programs there. I can't wait. God says I'm going to Ready Center.

**Speaker 3:** How you doing, fellas? Inmate 10. Is everything okay, Dave?

**Dave:** Not really. For some reason, I was supposed to be released today and I'm still here. I don't know what's going on. I haven't spoken to anybody, and I'm just trying to see what's going on. Is it possible to see if I can speak to a case manager or something?

**Speaker 3:** Let me reach out to Mr. Weaver and see if he can see you today, okay?

**Dave:** Okay.

**Speaker 3:** Inmate 10.

**Dave:** Yes.

**Speaker 3:** Mr. Weaver is here to see you today. You can come to his office.

**Weaver:** Come in.

**Dave:** How are you doing today, sir?

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**Weaver:** Good, how are you doing? Sit at the table. [unintelligible 00:01:46] said you wanted to speak with me.

**Dave:** Yes. I was supposed to be released today, and I don't know what's going on. I don't have any services. I don't have nothing. My roommate was telling me about the Ready Center you have over there and I just wanted to know like what kind of services that y'all provide and what I could take advantage of when I get released.

**Weaver:** Okay, so what the Ready Center is-- and I'll get you a copy so you can look over it while you wait. So the Ready Center is a one-stop-shop that's right here on the jail's grounds. There's actually a map on here that shows you how to get around to the Ready Center. At this one-stop-shop is a collection of government agencies that is able to link you to services.

At the Ready Center, they have the Department of Motor Vehicles where you are actually able to get your ID right there on the jail grounds so you don't have to go to the DMV and deal with that long line. You have the Department of Behavioral Health if you wanted to get connected to any type of mental health therapy or behavioral health therapy. They have the Department of Human Services as well so they can connect you to food stamps, Medicaid. They also have some trainings and stuff they are connected too. They also have the Department of Employment Services. Have you heard of Project Empowerment before?

**Dave:** Yes.

**Weaver:** Project Empowerment has job readiness training services. So all of these agencies are in one location right in the jail grounds where you're able to go in there and see all of them at one time and be in and out probably in less than an hour. You can also get connected to a community base of organizations for some additional services like clothing, food, housing, and those things. MORCA, Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs, is also a part of our services as well and they do some extended case management service so at Ready Center they provide direct linkage. It's like a one-stop-shop for one time only, but you also have MORCA for some continuous services.

**Dave:** Okay, so you mean to tell me that I can come to this Ready Center and I can get Project Empowerment, I can get Motor Vehicles ID, and Behavior Health if I need behavior help, food stamps, and Medicaid.

**Weaver:** All in one.

**Dave:** I know the DMV goes through extensive things as far as getting ID, what do I need to bring?

**Weaver:** To come to the Ready Center, there's a few things you need. Coming out of the Department of Correction, the main thing you need is your jail ID that they're going to give you when you get released. That jail ID has your name on it, has your

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birthday on it, has your social security number on it, and it also has the address-- as a matter of fact, is the address we have in the system on you, is that your actual address?

**Dave:** Yes.

**Weaver:** Okay, because it's important because the address that's on the ID is what the DMV is going to use. Just like going to any other DMV, you're going to get a paper copy of your ID, and then the hard copy will get mailed to the address [unintelligible 00:05:04].

**Dave:** Okay. As far as Project Empowerment, I know that it's a process you have to go and meet inside the Project Empowerment like a waitlist?

**Weaver:** Yes. The good thing about the Ready Center, we have a DOS, DOA as an employee who works right here [unintelligible 00:05:24] at the Ready Center. The good thing about that is you go on to register, you're able to get put in front of the list. If you're able to be given a date right into Ready Center the next orientation, you're able to come to the next orientation without having to wait in line so you jump over the line coming to the Ready Center.

**Dave:** Okay. For DHS, I can just apply for my food stamps and Medicaid, and I keep that for everybody as well?

**Weaver:** Yeah. There's a process but you get to fill out the application there. [inaudible 00:05:56] release documents and your ID. Like I said, all these agencies, the thing is that you're able to get all up in one location without having to go to a line where maybe 20-30-40 people in front of you, and you're able to get in and out and get all these services.

**Dave:** Okay. You can then go to somebody kind of see someone for behavioral health. How would that work?

**Weaver:** [clears throat] We have DBH [unintelligible 00:06:23], department of behavioral health. They connect you to a core service agency, like Green Door, MBI, any one of them. After they call, they set you up until [unintelligible 00:06:37] for your initial hearing. Actually, someone from the Ready Center on the DBH take you to their first appointment [unintelligible 00:06:44]

**Dave:** I have a problem with my birth certificate and my social security card. How can I go about getting that?

**Weaver:** MORCA can help you with a social security card. There's a couple of things you have to do with them. Your birth certificate, we have a couple of options. MORCA has a voucher to help you get your birth certificate. Also, we do things about community-based organizations [unintelligible 00:07:10], that's one of them. They can give you a voucher for you to go get your birth certificate.



**Dave:** Okay. Housing. I really don't have anywhere to go. I'll be homeless when I leave here, how would I get housing or get connected to something?

**Weaver:** All right. Again, we're about community-based organizations we have some partnership. Housing is probably one of the hardest things to get in this city but we do have partners, [unintelligible 00:07:38], Jubilee, and some others. We're still building partnerships with community-based organizations, they help assist with the transition. We also have some shelters available for immediate-- Like you if just needed to get somewhere today.

**Dave:** Wow. This is really incredible. I'm going to take advantage of this today. I was sitting in my cell, I was stressed out. What I was going to do, and there was some adult who helped me out [unintelligible 00:08:06]

**Weaver:** Yes. It's definitely something that will help eliminate some of the burdens that you normally [unintelligible 00:08:11]. We think so. If something good comes up, surely I look forward to seeing you at the Ready Center.

**Carl Sanderson:** Okay. My name is Carl Sanderson. I'm a returning citizen. Just got out of DOC jail over here. I came to the Ready Center here and I was received with the most hospitable and extremely warm welcome from these generous lovely people. I can't thank them enough for the services. It was a one-stop-shop for everything that I needed. I came in here I was stressed, I was aggravated, I was overwhelmed and they just made such a burden, just complete, you know what I'm saying, done in a matter of minutes. It took such a weight off me, I can actually breathe again.

I'm just giving a little bit of testimony as to what they're doing here. I highly recommend anybody looking for services, anybody returning to the community, anybody who needs services, I highly recommend Ready Center. They're the best thing that I've ever experienced coming back into the community. I'm just doing this testimonial as a thank you to them for the extremely warm, hospitable welcome that I received when I came here. Once again, I highly recommend the Ready Center. Thank you guys a whole lot. I can't thank you enough. God bless you.

**Speaker 4:** [unintelligible 00:09:59]

**Dave:** How you doin'?

**Speaker 4:** [unintelligible 00:10:01] for the Ready Center.

**Dave:** Okay.

**Speaker 4:** Are you familiar with the Ready Center?

**Dave:** I heard a little bit about some services through the case manager.



**Speaker 4:** Are you a DC resident?

**Dave:** Yes.

**Speaker 1:** Great, because the resources of the Ready Center are primarily for our residents. You have 24 hours to come to the Ready Center upon your release. Let me tell you about the Ready Center. The Ready Center is a one-stop-shop. We offer several government agencies, full government agencies under one umbrella. We offer DMV services, so if you need to get your ID through the Ready Center, you can come to us.

**Speaker 5:** The Ready Center has been awfully helpful to me. I was able to come here with my vital records and proper identification and get my DC ID which I greatly need. I'm excited about starting project empowerment and looking forward to all the other resources that the Ready Center is able to give. Everyone has been very helpful, cordial, pleasant, and just welcoming. As a returning citizen, that can be a little intimidating, but everyone was very, very helpful. Thank you Ready Center.

**Speaker 6:** Coming home from jail a lot of people get stagnated and I know that for sure because I've been through a lot throughout my life and I'm trying to overcome a lot of things that are negative, but going to the readiness center made me feel like a regular human being and it made me feel like I had a place in my city in Washington, DC. I appreciate the readiness center for doing what they have done for me. Thank you.

**Speaker 7:** I just want to say, that the Ready Center gave me all the resources that I needed to be successful. I recommend it to any inmate that's coming home or anybody that's trying to reconnect with the community.

**Speaker 4:** As you know without your ID you can't do much. You can't apply for jobs. You can't go into government agencies, so imperative that you have your ID. Through us, you can get your DMV-issued ID. We eliminate travel time, wait time, and costs. We offer DBH Services, Department of Behavioral Health. If you want to get connected or reconnected to any kind of mental health services or if you have a court order for anger management or substance abuse counseling, you can get that through DBH. We offer DHS which is the Department of Human Services. If you'd like to apply for food stamps, and Medicaid, you can do that in-house.

As you also know with that service, if you're not there early in the morning from 7:30 to 8:30 in the morning, I'm turning around. With those three services, we're eliminating almost three days of time. We offer Department of Employment Services, so if you're interested in our work readiness programs or our job programs like Project Empowerment, Back to Work 50+, DC Career Connections, you can pursue that through the Department of Employment Services. The beautiful part about that is we get you directly connected to the very next orientation for the next call.



If you were to do it on, go through the process on the street it'd be a more lengthy process. You'd have to go to the American Job Center. You have to go to three mandatory orientations and just- through us, we're trying to, we work to make your transition smoother. What we don't offer in-house, we partner with MORCA. MORCA is the Mayor's Office of Returning Citizens Affairs. They offer certain services that we don't so we partner with them. We also partner with CBO. CBO is our community-based organization. There might be other services that you need that we don't offer, us or MORCA, we might not offer, but we can give you referrals. Does that sound like something that you'll be interested in?

**Dave:** Yes, exactly.

**Speaker 4:** Great.

**Dave:** Where are y'all located?

**Speaker 4:** We're located here, so I'm prepared to walk you over when we-- Procrastination, by definition, is putting off tomorrow what you can do today. We like to seize the moment. We want you to get it. That way, tomorrow, you'd be waking up with things already on place, and not figuring out what it is that you have to do.

**Dave:** Okay. You're going to walk me over today?

**Speaker 4:** Yes, sir.

**Dave:** Okay, thank you.

**Speaker 4:** No problem.

**Speaker 8:** Mr. Simons?

**Dave:** Yes.

**Speaker 8:** Your date of birth?

**Dave:** 6/13/74.

**Speaker 8:** Last for your social.

**Dave:** 7205.

**Speaker 8:** Home address?

**Dave:** 140 [inaudible 00:14:43].

**Speaker 8:** I need you to sign. Sign for this Marshall card I'm going to give you; there's \$5 on it. Then I need you to sign in date. That's just stating you didn't have any property. I'm going to give you the ID card, [inaudible 00:15:02] code, a phone

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call if you need one, an ID. Your release paperwork, ID card, this Marshall card with \$5 on it, library card.

**Speaker 4:** See you on the outside, [unintelligible 00:15:19] welcome you home as soon as you come out the door. I'll be on the outside.

**Dave:** Thank you.

**Speaker 8:** Lift out that window for me. I have one release. When an officer comes to the window, [unintelligible 00:15:41] ID card, slide it through. They're going to ask you a few questions. When they finish, step back to that right [inaudible 00:15:45].

**Dave:** [inaudible 00:16:00] me. [laughter] Stop playing. I know you want to keep him here.

**Speaker 4:** What you got planned?

[background conversation]

**Speaker 9:** Are you just getting released from DOC? Great, you have your release card and your release documents?

**Dave:** Yes, I do.

**Speaker 9:** May I have those documents, please? Thank you. You can have a seat and fill out that form.

**Dave:** That's it? How long will it take for my first [inaudible 00:17:34]?

**Speaker 10:** About seven to 10 days so you can give me a call, and if you get approved before then I'll give you a call to let you know you get your Abt card.

**Dave:** Where can I pick that up?

**Speaker 10:** 645 H Street [unintelligible 00:17:45].

**Dave:** All right, thank you.

**Speaker 11:** [inaudible 00:17:53]. One moment, It'll come to you in the mailbox in about 15 business days so look out for it coming in--

**Speaker 7:** I just want to say that the Ready Center gave me all the resources that I needed to be successful. I recommend it to any inmate that's coming home or anybody that's trying to reconnect with the community.

**Speaker 12:** I enjoyed this [unintelligible 00:18:39] Ready Center and a lot of people don't know about this opportunity, man. It really is a one-stop-shop where we

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could get our ID, food stamps, and everything. **[inaudible 00:18:49]** the returning citizens the headstart that we really need and we need more programs like this. I appreciate y'all. Thank Y'all.

**[00:18:57] [END OF AUDIO]**