The Mayor’s Office of Public Safety

1 City Hall Square

Boston, MA 02201

RE: **Letter of Partnership with Partakers, College Behind Bars Mentoring Program**

To whom it may concern:

As Director of Mayor Wu's **Office of Public Safety (OPS)**, I am thrilled to express my support for the ***PARTAKERS College Behind Bars Mentoring Program***. OPS overseas the Office of Returning Citizens, who support the thousands of individuals who return to Boston after being released from state, federal and county facilities each year, as well as others who were previously incarcerated.

The Office of Public Safety endorses and support Partakers’ new reentry initiative; the **Partakers Empowerment Program (PEP)** which is providing educational and employment resources for formerly incarcerated women and men in Boston. In collaboration with the Brandeis Educational Justice Initiative (BEJI), Partakers provides clients with accesses to workshops that focus on technology, professionalism, financial literacy, civic re-engagement, wellness, and employment. Their returning citizens are assigned to several reentry facilities in Boston including, the Brooke House, McGrath House, and the Gavin house, among others.

According to The Boston Reentry Study from Harvard University, individuals reentering society need assistance accessing resources to help them find permanent housing and employment. The **Office of Returning Citizens** aims to empower men and women reintegrating into their communities to reach full potential as individuals, family members and residents of Boston.

Developing strong partnerships with community-based programs like PARTAKERS is critical to our mission. Providing our employment partners with educated dedicated employees who can reintegrate into the job force is critical. PARTAKERS prepares our returning citizens to be a competitive workplace commodity as they complete their college degree and reach a higher potential.

We look forward to partnering with PARTAKERS as a referral partner.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Rufus J. Faulk**

**Director**

**Office of Public Safety**

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