



## **Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia**

*Office of Legislative, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs*

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### **AGENCY MEETS WITH MENTORS FOR RE-ENTRY PROGRAM**

The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), in partnership with the Faith Community of the District of Columbia, will hold the first orientation meeting of its Re-entry Program for prospective mentors of offenders. The orientation will take place on Thursday, February 7, 2002, from 6:30 to 8:30p.m. at the Israel Baptist Church, 1251 Saratoga Avenue, NE.

The partnership between CSOSA and the Faith Community was launched over the weekend of January 13, 2002, when houses of worship throughout the city heard from their leaders about the needs of offenders for support and guidance during their reintegration back into their communities. Over 200 people responded to the initial appeal by indicating a willingness to serve as mentors. The Re-entry Program seeks mentors willing to give their time and wisdom to see these men and women successfully transition back to being healthy productive members of their neighborhoods.

On January 11, 2002, President George Bush issued a statement of support for this initiative. This partnership was also strongly supported at the press conference announcing its inception by Mayor Anthony A. Williams, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and leading members of the faith community. CSOSA is the Federal agency responsible for supervising District of Columbia defendants and offenders who are on probation, parole and pretrial supervision.

For information on the CSOSA/Faith Community Partnership Orientation meeting please contact Robert Murphy at (202) 220-5343.