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On April 1, 2019, New York State passed sweeping criminal justice reform legislation that eliminates money bail and pretrial detention for nearly all misdemeanor and nonviolent felony cases. The measure is in effect as of January 2020.

Because this reform is expected to have a direct impact on the Incorporated Village of Hempstead, Mayor Don Ryan has taken a proactive approach by tasking Commissioner Charlene Thompson of the Community Development Agency to create a viable plan for individuals with ties to the Village of Hempstead. In response, Commissioner Thompson has developed the **Village of Hempstead Workforce Re-Entry Taskforce** and the **Employer Advisory Council**.

The initiative includes, but is not limited to, workforce readiness, purpose-driven training and cooperative support for employers and prospective employees. Council members are asked to commit to working with the CDA to support individuals with complicated work histories by doing the following:

1. Identify skill sets for entry level positions, and potential opportunities for advancement;
2. Facilitate the development of purpose-driven training for these positions;
3. Participate in quarterly forums to identify obstacles to successful employment for traditionally harder-to-employ individuals and provide feedback on the work performance of employees hired through this Initiative;
4. Participate in a Spring 2020 Job Fair;
5. Accept applications, interview qualified candidates, and hire employees who can meet the employer's needs for open positions.

The Community Development Agency is committed to supporting Employer Advisory Council members by identifying and securing available funding, and other resources, to support employers hiring and training Hempstead residents through this initiative. We look forward to working with local partners to ensure the greatest chance of lasting success for employers and employees, family members, and the greater Hempstead community.

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