



# Department of Justice

## United States Attorney Kenyen R. Brown Southern District of Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: February 27, 2014

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### **“THE PULL OF GRAVITY” EVENT TO BE HELD ON MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>**

U.S. Attorney Kenyen R. Brown of the Southern District of Alabama, announces that Project H.O.P.E. (Helping Offenders Pursue Excellence – A re-entry council established by U.S. Attorney Kenyen Brown), Mayor Sandy Stimpson and the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council (SAWDC) are co-hosting a screening of the documentary film “The Pull of Gravity” on March 10<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-8pm at the Mobile Civic Center. “The Pull of Gravity” is a documentary film created with Office of Justice Programs monies that were obtained by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The documentary film’s producer is Mr. El Sawyer, who is also an ex-offender. U.S. Attorney Brown said, “The documentary is gritty and contains some language that is inappropriate for children, but it accurately captures peoples’ real experiences as they try to return to the community after a term of incarceration.”

Once the screening of the film has concluded a panel of people, from employers to service providers, who are engaged in re-entry efforts in our area will take the stage in order to discuss their re-entry efforts. Additionally, a broad range of community service providers will have tables in the Mobile Civic Center lobby where they can inform the public on what services they provide. The public can also use this opportunity to identify volunteer opportunities or directly connect with the free or reduced fee services available in our area.

The purpose of this event is to spark the re-entry conversation here locally in hopes of addressing our crime problem at its root by identifying areas where community involvement can arrest systemic impediments to ex-offenders successfully reintegrating back into society. These impediments include ex-offenders’ lack of knowledge about what free or reduced fee services are available in the community to assist them, ex-offenders’ educational and employment needs and a wary business community. U.S. Attorney Brown said, “These traditional impediments to successful re-entry have led to a high recidivism rate where new victims are created because ex-offenders have forfeited any hope of successful reintegration. Given the high demand for skilled vocational laborers in this region, ex-offenders, if properly trained in both soft skills and vocational skills, can be a reliable labor pool for our robust maritime and airline industries while at the same time reducing our local crime rate and reducing prison costs for the State.”

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Alabama at <http://www.justice.gov/usao/als/>.