

» Hot Links:

Newark takes criminal inquiry off job forms

THE DAILY BRIEFING

» Kasich super-PAC ad features 'The Hug' -- and Tim Allen

» Aaron Pickrell joins Hillary Clinton campaign in Ohio

» No Kasich at CPAC

» DeWine not releasing bids on new background-check system

Buckeye Forum Podcast



The Dispatch public affairs team talks politics and tackles state and federal government issues in the Buckeye Forum podcast.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

» Court clerk reconsiders fee to email records

By **Eric Lyttle**

The Columbus Dispatch • Tuesday July 21, 2015 6:44 AM

NEWARK, Ohio — Not many ordinances have passed with as little resistance as the so-called ban-the-box proposal that the sometimes-divided Newark City Council passed unanimously on Monday night.

With a 9-0 vote, Newark became the most recent in a growing number of both public and private employers to remove any inquiry about a prior criminal conviction from its job applications.

The effort, sparked by a grass-roots group called the Newark Think Tank on Poverty and sponsored by Councilman Jeremy Blake, was designed to eliminate one more unnecessary barrier that citizens returning to society after a prison stint face in attempting to rebuild their lives, advocates say.

The typical “Have you ever been convicted of a felony?” question on many applications often is used as a screening process, eliminating those with criminal records from a job. That means they aren’t given a chance to even tell their story or show why they’re qualified for a job before they’re eliminated from the job.

Newark’s resolution, and most like it, does not prevent employers from running a records check on prospective hires. But it delays that inquiry until prospective hires have had an initial interview and have passed the first round of screenings.

“This was a good night for Newark,” Blake said on Monday. “Newark City Council provided a lot of opportunity tonight. Hopefully, more private employers will see the action Newark has taken and remove the box from its applications, too.”

Last month, Gov. John Kasich, through executive order, eliminated any questions pertaining to criminal records from applications for state-agency jobs. Ohio joins 17 other states that have done the same thing.

Franklin County and cities including Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton, Akron and Youngstown also have banned the box since the movement began in about 2010. The city of Columbus removed such inquiries from its applications years before that.

According to the Ohio Justice and Policy Center, a nonprofit law and advocacy group, 1.9 million Ohioans — about 1 in 6 — have a criminal record. More than 25,000 are released back into society from Ohio prisons each year.

elyttle@dispatch.com

@ewlyttle

[Favorite](#) [Print Story](#)

You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Increasingly Popular 2 Step Method Eliminates Credit Card Debt
LendingTree

Have You Looked Your Name Up Through This 'Deep' Search?
TruthFinder Subscription

Guess Who's About To Go Bankrupt Next In America?
Stansberry Research

Hidden Photos From The Past Finally Revealed
My Daily Viral

"Brightest Flashlight Ever" Selling Like Crazy!
Outdoors-America.com

2 Dudes on Shark Tank Just Blew Everyone's Mind
The Motley Fool

This Week's Circulars



MENARDS

MASTERCRAFT **PREHUNG DOORS** In s

INTERIOR • 1-3/8" thick • 4 @ 18" frames • Nickel Finish Hinges • A. Mission 3-Panel

• Choose from left or right swing
• Limited lifetime warranty • \$67.11

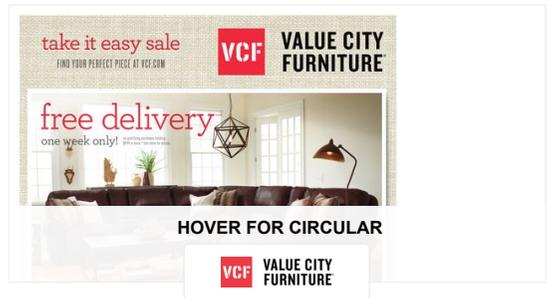
Sale \$64 each

• Smooth handboard door
• Paintable White frame with integrated stop for a clean, finished appearance
• 24", 28" or 30"W • 411-0562-0587
32" or 36"W • 411-0568-0593

A. PRIME B. OAK C. PINE

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

MENARDS



take it easy sale FIND YOUR PERFECT PIECE AT VCF.COM

VCF **VALUE CITY FURNITURE**

free delivery one week only!

HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

VCF **VALUE CITY FURNITURE**