

From: [Peel, Jackson](#)  
To: [Press](#)  
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Rep Bush Announces HB 881  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

February 10 2021

### **CONTACT**

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**\*\*\* MEDIA ADVISORY for Friday, February 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. \*\*\***

## **Representative James Bush III Sponsors HB 881: Legislation to Include Retroactivity in Florida's Automatic Sealing of Criminal History Records Law**

**Miami, Fla.** – In 2019, the Florida Legislature enacted section 943.0595 which allowed for the automatic sealing of eligible arrest and dismissal records, provided that the offense was not a forcible felony. Since then, this important law has served as a pivotal employment and re-employment tool for thousands of qualified Floridians. **Representative James Bush III (D- Opa-Locka)** is proud to sponsor [House Bill 881](#) that calls for *retroactivity* of this important law, in perpetuity. **HB 881** also creates a schedule and timeline for implementation of retroactive automatic sealing of eligible arrest and dismissal records for all qualified Floridians, regardless of when the arrest or dismissal occurred in the past.

**Representative Dr. James Bush III** will host a press conference to announce this exciting retroactive enhancement to the automatic sealing of criminal history record laws of Florida on **Friday, February 12, 2021 at 10am, in front of the District Office of Rep. James Bush III: 13300 NW 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Opa-Locka, FL 33054**. Rep. Bush will be joined by Miami-Dade Public Defender: Carlos J. Martinez, local civic and Civil Rights groups, Elected Officials, Members of the Clergy, Community Based Organizations (CBO's), grassroots organizations and members of the community.

**Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos J. Martinez** is very pleased with the legislation, "This is a great bill. It has bipartisan support. It's a fair employment bill. Making automatic sealing of arrest and dismissal records retroactive will help Floridians obtain better paying jobs."

**Representative Bush** also believes that this legislation will strengthen Florida's economy and bring new life to the family unit and to those struggling to re-enter the workforce, "We must do everything within our power to uplift every Floridian as we continue to combat the pandemic. When we plant the seeds of growth and opportunity among the unemployed and the unemployable, those seeds will grow into a thriving workforce and a stronger, more resilient Florida. This is the right thing to do for my district and it's in the best interest of this great State."

**WHO: Representative Dr. James Bush III, Miami-Dade Public Defender Carlos J. Martinez,** local civic and Civil Rights groups, Elected Officials, Members of the Clergy, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), grassroots organizations and members of the community.

**WHAT: Press Conference Announcing HB 881 - Automatic Sealing of Criminal History Records**

**WHEN: Friday, February 12 at 10 a.m.**

**WHERE: District Office of Rep. James Bush III: 13300 NW 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Opa-Locka, FL 33054**

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