

1. Beginning in 1999, I made some very poor decisions related to drugs. I was convicted for possession and sale of a controlled substance and landed jail time. Unfortunately, I did not learn my lesson, and I ended up in the same predicament multiple times. This pattern continued until my brother's death. At that point, I realized I did not want to use drugs or be in that cycle, and I wanted to deal with the impact of his death and my grief. His death was a serious catalyst for me to get clean and make a major change in my life, because I needed to be a stable parent, and a good son to my parents. I was their only remaining son.
2. At that point, in 2013, I was in my early 40s and I had no stability or foundation. I was a middle-aged man and had to start my life over from scratch, with a criminal record. From that point on, I worked steadily to improve and rebuild my life.
 - a. **Church involvement.** For the last 10 years, I became extremely involved in my church. Primarily, I was doing outreach work for young people that also had issues with drugs. I started volunteering at the McAlister Institute in San Diego, which is a drug and alcohol treatment facility for at risk youth, teenagers, and adults. I would go there with my friends, and we would ride up on our motorcycles to try and be more approachable to the young people there. We would talk to them, tell them our stories, and let them know that unless they chose a new path, they would end up in jail or dead. I wanted others to be able to learn from my past mistakes.
 - i. Through the years, I also attended church routinely, and hosted a bible study in my home. My church has been a strong pillar of support to me for the last decade. A copy of a letter from a senior member of my church is attached as **Exhibit A**.
 - b. **Personal Support.** During this transition, I began a relationship with my now wife, _____, who is someone I have known since we were kids. She is a major positive influence in my life. She works for the local school district and with troubled teenagers, and she continues to be a super positive influence in my life. We got married several years back.
 - i. After I returned home, I worked on my relationship with my children, and work hard to support and nurture my grandchildren. I worked hard to repair and improve these relationships, and I am blessed with a loving and supportive family.
 - ii. With respect to the March 2021 conviction for gun possession, my son was living with me at the time. He got into trouble with the law, and they raided my home. It was my son's firearm, but it was my residence, and thus, under the law, it was my possession. That seemed reasonable and fair, and thankfully it was reduced to a misdemeanor. However, I cannot have that impact in my life, and I asked my son to leave my home.

Although we still have a relationship, I have let him know that he cannot live at my home in the future.

- c. **Educational Background.** I earned my GED in prison, and although it took a few years for me to build up my courage and confidence through steady employment, I decided at age 49 to enroll in community college. This was not easy, and at times, it was a tremendous struggle. I thought about quitting repeatedly, but I knew it was not an option if I wanted to turn my life around.
- i. Since 2020, as I continued with school and work, I realized my life is steadily improving, with many blessings and positive changes. From 2020 until now, I have consistently attended community college, while working. A copy of my grade report from Southwestern College is attached as **Exhibit B**. My cumulative GPA is 3.667. I also received a certificate of achievement for Occupational Health & Safety in August 2022, which is attached as **Exhibit C**.
 - ii. I also attended an Occupational Safety and Health Standards course at UC San Diego, and that grade report is attached as **Exhibit D**.
 - iii. In early May 2023, I received the Bernard L Hyink Scholarship Award of \$1000. I was the first Southwestern student to receive this award. A copy of the email confirming this award is attached as **Exhibit E**.
 - iv. In May 2023, I won the ASSP Foundation Career Development Grant of \$500, to help support my professional goals. A copy of the email confirming the award is attached as **Exhibit F**.
 - v. I am on path to graduate in May 2024. My wonderful mentor and professor has written me a letter of recommendation, which is attached as **Exhibit G**.
- d. **Professional Work.** While I was in prison, in addition to earning my GED, I also took many skills courses and worked on construction projects inside to keep up my construction skills. Since returning home, I have had a steady stream of employment.
- i. I started work at Reynolds Construction in 2013, which utilized the skills and training I had in the construction industry. I developed a nice friendship with the owner of Reynolds, and I continue that relationship even though I left for another position. A copy of his letter about my professional work and our friendship is attached as **Exhibit H**.
 - ii. In 2021, I applied for a position with the City of San Diego, for a heavy truck driver II position. Originally, they declined my application, because of my criminal background. The disqualification letter provided an appeal

option. I knew there was no guarantee, but I knew that I had to try. I appealed and presented my case to the Civil Service Commission, which was comprised of a panel of five board members. I talked about my past, my present, and my hopes for my future as an employee with the City of San Diego. After my presentation, the panel talked and then the Chair announced I would be approved, which moved me to tears.

- e. **Life goals.** I have worked very hard and have completely rebuilt my life in the last decade, and I want a clean record to match who I am as a person now. It is extremely important to me as a matter of personal dignity, to align with who I have become. Also, when I graduate in Summer 2024, I want to become a safety representative in the construction industry, to protect all of the workers that are employed in the same type of work I have always done. This will be much easier to achieve with a clean record, and I hope to continue to contribute to the same community that gave me a second chance.

I, [REDACTED], declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on August 8, 2023.