

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

Jerod Hughes

Defendant.

Criminal No. 21-106 (TJK)

**DEFENDANT’S MOTION FOR MODIFICATION OF
OF BOND TO PLACE THE DEFFENDANT
ON CONDITIONAL RELEASE PENDING TRIAL**

Defendant Jerod Hughes, by and through undersigned counsel, respectfully moves this Court, pursuant to the Bail Reform Act of 1984, 18 U.S.C. 3141 et seq., to release the defendant on personal recognizance. Alternatively, if the Court is not amenable to release defendant on personal recognizance, Defendant moves this court to commit him to the supervision of a High Intensity Supervision Program (HISP) with GPS monitoring by local Pretrial Services in Montana. The defendant requests that he be placed on house arrest with reasonable curfew privileges that allow him to leave the house for work and activities related to this case. In support of this request the defense states the following:

I. BACKGROUND

Mr. Hughes is 36 years old has been gainfully employed his entire adult life. He has worked steadily since his teen years.¹ As the numerous character letters establish, he is a hard-working responsible family man. Numerous witnesses have attested to that including his current employer from Valley Metal Services.

He lives with his wife, Katherine Hughes with whom he has been involved since they were classmates in High School. They have one daughter, Andrea Hughes who is 14 years old. Defendant's wife is completely disabled. Defendant is the sole financial supporter of the family. Defendant works 4 days a week 10 hours per day on his full-time job. He also works at that job on Fridays when work is available and part time on weekends with a friend doing tile installation to make additional money. Given his wife's physical disability he is the primary home maker as well as caretaker for his wife. She is currently scheduled for a medical appointment this Friday at which a surgical appointment is to be scheduled. Post-surgery she will be bed ridden and completely dependent on defendant for all services during her recovery period. The defendant's

¹ As a very young man the defendant did have some issues with "substance abuse." It appears that there was some contact with the criminal justice system in that regard but it is relatively remote.

incarceration and inability to support his family is causing a grievous hardship on the family.

They are in debt due to her outstanding medical bills. Defendant's inability to work is further aggravating their financial situation, driving them further into debt.

Defendant is before the Court charged with multiple counts arising out of his alleged participation in the activities that occurred at the United States Congress. On January 6, 2021, defendant and his brother traveled by car for several days from their home in Montana in order to attend a rally in Washington, DC where many speakers, including then President of the United States, Donald J. Trump would be speaking. Defendant is not part of any group and was not part of any concerted action at the Capitol. He travelled on his own, to support the President and only had the intent to protest what he believed was the "stolen election." There was no plan nor intent to engage in civil disobedience. As has been noted, several of the attendees came prepared for confrontation wearing, "combat gear," helmets, body armor, etc.. Defendant did not. He had no intention nor expectation that he would be involved in anything other than a peaceful show of support for President Trump.

During President Trump's speech he encouraged the attendees to march to the United States Capitol to protest the Electoral College certification of the vote for the 2020 Presidential Election. When then President Trump encouraged the crowd to walk toward the Capitol. Defendant marched to the Capitol with the crowd, thinking he was protesting the election, which the President claimed had been fraudulently "stolen." Defendant did not cause damage to the Capitol buildings or grounds or commit any crime or acts of violence². Defendant does not believe the prosecution is making any claims that Defendant was violent nor destructive while in the Capitol. Although there is evidence defendant entered into the Capitol, once inside when defendant saw others engaging in acts of destruction he did not want to associate with that type of conduct. Consequently, he voluntarily left the Capitol. Simultaneously, law enforcement in the Capitol were instructing people that they should leave; defendant complied with their admonitions.

Defendant's Surrender

² Defense is preparing the instant motion without any discovery or a pre sentence report. All representations are "made upon information and belief."

The defendant returned home without incident. Once home he learned that his image may have appeared in the media as someone the FBI was seeking to identify. Defendant went to the local courthouse to surrender himself³. At the local courthouse he learned there was no arrest warrant, but was told he should go to the local FBI office. Defendant went to the local FBI office but was again told there was no arrest warrant. Defendant left his contact information, telling the agent that if there was anything further, they could contact him and he would be cooperative. Several weeks later, when contacted by the FBI, defendant was cooperative. He returned to their office on a Friday and was told that they were going to have to take him into custody because of the instant case. They advised him if he wanted, he could leave his cell telephone, go home for the weekend then return on Monday when he would be taken into custody. Defendant did so. He has been cooperative and in custody since.

It is hard to imagine anyone who presents less of a flight risk than defendant. At the risk of sounding facetious, he has been frighteningly proactive in pursuing his prosecution. Similarly, upon information and

³ As noted in the letters of support, defendant has several family members that are law enforcement. He sought their advice which was to surrender himself, believing there was an arrest warrant.

belief, there has never been an allegation that he has ever done anything to harm any person. Consequently, hard to imagine anyone could seriously maintain that his release poses an unreasonable danger to the community.

II. PROPOSED CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

Defendant's first request is that he be released on personal recognizance, consistent with the statutory presumption as the favored form of release. If the Court believes personal recognizance is not sufficient, defendant requests that he be released into the HISP program or its functional equivalent in Montana, including that a GPS monitoring system be employed along with a reasonable curfew that permits him to work and support himself and attend to family business.

III. MEMORANDUM OF LAW AND ARGUMENT

Defendant submits that the order of detention should be vacated and that this Court should set conditions of release in this case. Under the Bail Reform Act ("the Act"), 18 U.S.C. §§ 3142, *et. seq.*, there are four bail options: release on personal recognizance, release on conditions, temporary detention and pretrial detention. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(a). The Act provides that if the Court finds by clear and convincing evidence that "no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the

appearance of the person as required and the safety of any other person and the community, such judicial officer shall order detention of the person before trial.” 18 U.S.C. §§ 3142(e)(1), (f)(2)(g). However, there is a strong presumption against detention. *See United States v. Hassanshahi*, 989 F. Supp. 2d 110, 113 (D.D.C. 2013) (citing *United States v. Hanson*, 613 F. Supp. 2d 85, 87 (D.D.C. 2009); *United States v. Salerno*, 481 U.S. 739, 755 (1987) (“[i]n our society liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception.”)). Courts have held that a finding that defendant is a danger to the community or a serious flight risk is a basis of detention. *See United States v. Anderson*, 177 F. Supp. 3d 458, 461 (D.D.C. 2016) (citing *United States v. Salerno*, 481 U.S. 739, 755 (1987)). The finding must be based on clear and convincing evidence that the defendant poses a danger to the community or a preponderance of the evidence to support the defendant’s likelihood to flee. *See id.*; *see also United States v. Xulam*, 318 U.S. App. D.C. 1, 84 F.3d 441, 442 (1996) (citing *United States v. Simpkins*, 826 F.2d 94, 96 (D.C. Cir. 1987)).

The Act mandates pretrial release on personal recognizance or unsecured bond stating that the court “shall order the pretrial release...” unless the court determines that release will not reasonably assure the person's appearance or will endanger the safety of any person or the

community. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(b)). When personal recognizance or an unsecured bond is determined to be inadequate to guarantee appearance or safety, the Act still mandates release. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c). The conditions must be the least restrictive conditions necessary to reasonably assure the defendant's appearance and the community's safety. *United States v. Fortna*, 769 F.2d 243 (5th Cir. 1985), cert. denied, 479 U.S. 950 (1986).

To determine whether the conditions of release will reasonably assure a defendant's future presence in court, the following factors are considered: "(1) the nature and circumstances of the offense charged... (2) the weight of the evidence against the person; (3) the history and characteristics of the person... (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed by the person's release." 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(1)-(4).

The legislative history of the Act stresses that '[t]he decision to provide for pretrial detention is in no way a derogation of the importance of the [accused's] interest in remaining at liberty prior to trial. It is anticipated that [pretrial release] will continue to be appropriate for the majority of federal

defendants." S. Rep. No. 225, 98th Cong., 1st Sess. 7, 12, *reprinted in*, 1984 U.S. Code Cong. & Ad. News 3189.

In the instant case Defendant's continued detention without bond is not the least restrictive alternative case; there are conditions available that will assure the community's safety and his return for future court dates. *See U.S. v. Xulam*, 84 F.3d 441 (D.C. Cir. 1996). Defendant is among that majority for whom a combination of conditions short of detention without bond can be fashioned to "reasonably assure" the safety of the community and his appearance for trial. *See United States v. Orta*, 760 F.2d 887 (8th Cir. 1985); *see also* 18 U.S.C. §3142(c)(1)(B) (stating the judicial officer shall order the pretrial release of an accused "subject to the least restrictive further condition or combination of conditions, that such judicial officer shall determine will reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required and the safety of any other person and the community").

Notwithstanding that the defendant has been indicted he is still presumed innocent. The defendant's ability to prepare a defense will be hampered by his pretrial incarceration. Additionally, there are several factors in the instant case which demonstrate that there are conditions of

release which would both guarantee Defendant's appearance and assure the safety of the community.

i. The nature and circumstances of the offenses charged weigh in favor of defendant's release.

In determining the nature and circumstances of the offense charged, the court looks at the seriousness of the offense. See 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g)(1). Here, the nature and circumstances of the charged offenses weigh heavily in favor of release. Defendant is charged primarily with offenses related to being on restricted Capitol grounds. The offenses are non-violent offenses. The prosecution does not allege that defendant ever physically injured anyone at any time. There is no claim defendant ever attempted to injure anyone at any time. There is no claim defendant ever threatened to injure anyone at any time. There is no claim defendant ever planned, conspired, agreed, aided, abetted, facilitated or encouraged anyone to physically harm anyone at any time. There is no claim defendant ever possessed let alone used a firearm or weapon of any type at any time. There is no claim defendant ever attempted to obtain nor transfer any weapon at any time for any purpose in connection with the underlying event or in connection with the activities at issue. Similarly,

there is no claim defendant ever possessed any handcuffs, flex cuffs, or other forms of restraints as has been alleged against other persons involved in the underlying event.

There is no evidence that defendant participated in the planning of the underlying event, he was merely one of the thousands that participated in the event and ended up getting swept along with the crowd. He was not part of any group, is not a member of any organizations that was involved in the demonstration. Rather he travelled to the demonstration by himself to listen to a speech and exercise his right to protest. Similarly, he was not part of any group at the demonstration.

ii. The weight of the evidence weighs in favor of Defendant's release.

The charges and the weight of the evidence against defendant stem from allegations that he entered the Capitol and its grounds. Because there has been no discovery disclosed the defense does not know what the evidence is but assumes, like most of the January 6, 2021 protester cases, the evidence in this case primarily consists of various photographs and video that appear to capture defendant at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. As stated above, defendant is charged with crimes stemming from entering and remaining on Capitol grounds, principally offenses analogous to

trespass. He is not charged with crimes of violence nor destruction. He never assaulted nor threatened anyone. The weight of the evidence leans in favor of defendant's release.

iii. Defendant's History and Characteristics weigh in favor of his release.

As clearly reflected in the numerous letters of support, defendant is a working citizen and family man. Aside from the allegations in the instant case, he is a law-abiding citizen, not oriented towards a criminal lifestyle.

Defendant has extensive ties to the community where he lives, in Montana.

Due to these ties and his background, there is no indication that he would be a risk of flight or otherwise fail to comply with any order from this Court. Defendant's history and characteristics weigh heavily toward his release.

iv. Defendant is not a danger to the community and should be released.

On January 6, 2021, Defendant set out to exercise his First Amendment right to protest. When he reached Capitol grounds things undoubtedly got out of hand. Assuming the prosecution's allegations are

correct that he entered the Capitol area, it appears defendant got swept up in the moment. However, at no time does the government allege the defendant personally attempted to physically harm anyone. They claim many other individuals of the thousands who participated in the activities of January 6, 2021, did inflict physical harm on individuals. Still others expressed a desire and intent to do so. Apparently, they do not claim that there is evidence defendant personally did so. Defendant is not a member of any far right-wing group. He has no record of violence or criminality that poses a danger to the community. There is no allegation he ever expressed a desire or inclination to physically harm anyone.

Lastly, in assessing the danger defendant's release poses on the community, his alleged activities must be viewed in context. Notwithstanding that his belief that the election was "stolen" may not have been rationally based, he was not acting out of criminal intent. He sought no personal nor pecuniary gain. Rather, he was responding to the entreaties of the then commander in chief, President Trump. The former President maintained that the election had been stolen and it was the duty of loyal citizens to "stop the steal" by preventing the election certification. Although the claim appears to be baseless, it is apparent defendant was one of millions of Americans who were misled by the former President's

deception. Defendant acted out of conscience, albeit one that was manipulated by deception. He thought he was standing up to protect his country, not to attack it. As a result of this experience, he has learned not be so gullible and will not be so easily duped again. His solitary action in this case, measured against a history of being a law-abiding citizen, safely predicts that he is more likely to resume behaving as a law-abiding citizen if released pending trial. His history does not suggest that he is likely to resume the type of behavior that brings him before this court. It is an aberration in an otherwise exemplary record.

In view of that it is difficult to see how the government can credibly claim there are no conditions of release that protect the community from the danger defendant's release poses, particularly when they cannot point to any attempt by him to physically injure anyone.

IV. CONCLUSION

Congress enacted the Bail Reform Act of 1984, in passing the Act, however, Congress did not intend to authorize the wholesale pretrial incarceration of all persons accused of criminal offenses. Indeed, the Act expressly provides that "[n]othing in this section shall be construed as modifying or limiting the presumption of innocence." 18 U.S. Code §

3142(j). To the contrary, the passage of the pretrial detention provision of the 1984 Act bespeaks a recognition that "*there is a small but identifiable group of particularly dangerous [persons]* as to whom neither the imposition of stringent release conditions nor the prospect of revocation of release can reasonably assure the safety of the community or other persons. It is with respect to this *limited group* ... that the courts must be given the power to deny release pending trial." S. Rep. No. 225, 98th Cong., 1st Sess. 6-7, *reprinted in* U.S. Code Cong. & Ad. News 3189 (emphasis added).

It is apparent from the Act's legislative history, as well as the statutorily mandated consideration of the least restrictive alternatives to detention, that Congress contemplated pretrial detention of only a small percentage of the individuals awaiting trial. Defendant does not pose a danger to the community and there is no risk of flight. All factors weigh in favor of him being released on his own personal recognizance.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing reasons, and any others which may appear at a full hearing on this matter, and any others this Court deems just and proper, defendant through counsel, respectfully requests that he be released on personal recognizance. If that request is denied defendant requests as an alternative that he be released and placed into the High Intensive Supervision Program of the Pretrial Services Agency conditioned

March 22, 2021

To whom it may concern,

My name is Bob Gleich. I am a recently retired 24-year veteran law enforcement officer in the State of Montana. I am also the maternal uncle to both Joshua and Jerod Hughes. I write this letter to speak to the character of both of my nephews in earnest.

Josh and Jerod grew up in East Helena, Montana only a few short miles from my home. I saw them grow from active little boys and even more active teenagers to the responsible young adults they are today.

By now you have checked the past criminal history of both young men and have found that Josh has never had a run-in with law enforcement. Josh, as always held down a full-time job, is respectful and is respected in his community.

There is no question that you know Jerod has had a devastating run-in with law enforcement that changed him for the better. In fact, Jerod was arrested by his own uncle, my brother David, for the possession of dangerous drugs. A charge not uncommon to many of the youth in Montana. Jerod took his lumps; he completed his probation and did what was expected of him. Jerod did this with humiliation and never looked back. This single incident made him a better person. He is a husband and a father and does what he has to in order to provide for his family. He is a hard worker that holds down a steady job so his wife and daughter can be proud of him. Simply put, he made a mistake as a teenaged kid and he learned from it.

I do not condone the actions of my nephews in any way. Had I known they were going to the rally in Washington D.C., I would have explained to them given my years of law enforcement that nothing good would come of the rally. They lacked foresight and wisdom and are now paying a very big price for their decision to attend. However, it would be an injustice to keep these young men incarcerated and away from their families while this case slowly grinds through the justice system. If for some reason the court cannot accept these men at their word, they will comply with all court orders and appearances, then take my word they will comply.

In closing, please take into consideration that nobody turned Josh and Jerod into law enforcement. It was their decision to turn themselves into the local FBI office in Helena, Montana. At that time the FBI took their information and sent them back home. Josh and Jerod knew they were going to have to answer for their actions. But they did not run, they did not hide and have since been cooperative with law enforcement and the justice system from day one and I beg the court to release these young men and allow them to return to their families until trial.

Respectfully,
Bob Gleich,
Retired Chief Deputy
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Boulder, Montana

From: **catherine hughes** <catjennings@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 7:26 PM
Subject: Letter on behalf of Jerod Hughes
To: jonathanzuckerlaw@gmail.com <jonathanzuckerlaw@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern:

Jerod Hughes is my husband and my main care taker. I have known him for 21 years and we've been married for almost 11. In 2016 I became very ill, since then I've become fully disabled. I have a pain stimulator in my spine to help with the constant pain that results from my illness. I also have weekly appointments that I have not been able to attend because my husband's wages paid for the appointments. My husband has done nothing but work 10+ hours a day to try to provide for his family and pay off my massive medical debt so I may continue to see my doctor's and get the care I need. He not only works 10+ hours every day but then comes home to cook us dinner and clean the house because I rarely feel well enough to help him with these things. Please consider him for bail, we dearly need him home, he does not want to run away from any of this, he is ready to face the consequences of his actions, we just ask that he may wait at home while everything is decided. Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

Sent from my Verizon Motorola Smartphone

Joseph M. Hughes
6064 West U.S. Highway 12
Helena MT, 59601

March 23, 2021

To whom it may concern,

It saddens me to have to write this letter due to the circumstances surrounding my brother Jerod Hughes. In his early adulthood he was not a very productive member of society and was getting himself into trouble just like he has done now. Out of the thousands of protestors Jerod made the bad decision of going into the Capitol. I know he kicked in a door to gain entrance and, like hundreds of others, went inside to, what seemed at the time, saving this country from a corrupt election. This obviously does not excuse his actions, but he did not physically harm anyone and after the initial chaos of the storming of the Capitol he left along with my brother Josh Hughes. After returning back to Helena, MT they immediately turned themselves in and waited three weeks before being arrested. For him not to receive a bail is absurd and an unusual punishment considering all that I have stated. Especially when I talk with other families who have their family members get bailed out of jail for the same thing, or in some cases, had done more violent actions than Jerod. He is a good, hard working, loving family man. He has turned his life around dramatically and strives to simply provide for his family and love them as fiercely as he can.

Pastor David A. Mallo, Sr
2995 Prospect Ave. Trill #48
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Letter of Character

To whom it may concern, this letter of the character of Jerrod W. Hughes. I have known Jerrod since the young age of 3. As a child Jerrod always attended Sunday services with his parents, even into High School. Jerrod has always been a good young man. Hard working family man. Jerrod graduated High School.

I preformed Jarrod and Katherine's Wedding ceremony, when I was asked by each of them.

I realize that Jerrod was caught up the excitement of the moment, along with the Adrenalin rush with many others. Yet this is no reason to completely ruin he and his family's life for ever.

Sincerely,

Pastor David A. Mallo, Sr.

To whom it may concern,

I, Cassandra Hughes, have known your client, Jerod Hughes, my entire life. He is my big brother, and a part of my heart. Over the three decades I have known Jerod, I have grown to admire him dearly. I have seen him work harder than most, love fiercely, and fight passionately for what he believes in. He is a committed partner to his wife, Catherine, an amazing father and provider to his daughter, Andrea, and a great brother to myself, as well as my fellow siblings. Jerod has overcome so many hardships in his young life, and every time that he has been knocked down, he has jumped right back up, learning from his mistakes, and becoming a better man for it. He is a good man, father, husband, brother, son, and friend. I am proud to know him, and grateful for the impact he has had on my life.

Thank you,

His little sister, Cassie

March 22, 2021

Reference: Character Reference for Josh Hughes and Jerrod Hughes

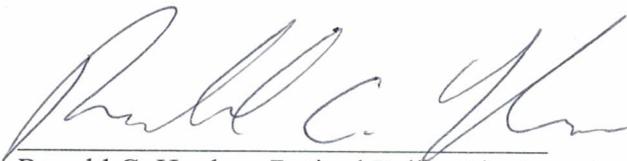
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to give a character reference for Josh Hughes and Jerrod Hughes. I am their uncle and a retired police lieutenant with the Odessa Police Department in Odessa Texas. I have known Josh and Jerrod all their lives. They are good Christian boys that would go out of their way to help someone. I know Josh and Jerrod to be very respectful and honest when dealing with people. Josh and Jerrod have strong family values and a high grade of respect for their community. They both have many relatives in law enforcement and have always been respectful of the law and law enforcement officers.

I believe Josh and Jerrod went to Washington DC to participate in a legal demonstration and wanted to have their voices heard concerning the current political atmosphere and being young men, made some poor decisions in the heat of the moment. I would hope that they would not be judged solely on one incident of poor judgement that will have a lasting effect on the rest of their lives.

I am not in the habit of giving out character references and would only make these statements if I knew them to be true through my personal dealings with Josh and Jerrod. I would hope you would consider this character reference for Josh and Jerrod when dealing with these young men.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald C. Hughes". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Ronald C. Hughes, Retired Police Lieutenant
Odessa Police Department
Odessa, Texas 79761
E-Mail Address: rhughes@mygrande.net

From: **catherine hughes** <catjennings@hotmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 10:05 PM

Subject: Letter - Jerod Hughes

To: jonathanzuckerlaw@gmail.com <jonathanzuckerlaw@gmail.com>

Transcribed by Catherine Hughes for Margaret Jennings-Jeffrey whom is visually impaired. her character letter is as follows:

To whom it may concern, my name is Margaret Jennings-Jeffrey, I'm a cancer survivor and devoted over 20 years to, and retired from, the State of Montana. I'm also Jerods mother-in-law. I've known Jerod since he was in middle school. I've known him to be a dependable and considerate person. He has had his issues, as all young people do but he has made amends and grew from those mistakes. He's been loyal to his family, friends and employers. He's been dedicated to making his ill wife have the best quality of life possible given her situation, he is a devoted family man and his family needs him. Please consider him for bail, I've always known him to take accountability for his actions and believe he wants nothing more than to be a productive member of society again. Thank you for your attention regarding this matter.

Sent from my Verizon Motorola Smartphone

From: Joann Smith <joanns661@gmail.com>
Date: Mar 22, 2021 5:33 PM
Subject: character reference for Jerod Hughes
To: catjennings@hotmail.com
Cc:

I have known Jerod Hughes for around 17 years. I first met Jerod when I took over managing a casino in East Helena Montana, Jerod was one of my best runners he has a great personality and a work ethic that is top of the line. I soon had the privilege of getting to know the entire Hughes family and they are all wonderful hard working people. Jerod's parents raised him to stand up for what he believes with courage and conviction and great love for the United States. Jerod is a great dad and husband. Jerod is a very stand up and take responsibility for what he believes in kind of man.

Thank you for your attention to this matter
Sincerely
Joann Smith

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Leigh Ewing <leighandtimmt@gmail.com>

Date: Mar 23, 2021 11:10 AM

Subject:

To: catjennings@hotmail.com

Cc:

To whom it may concern my name is Timothy Ray Ewing a current Community member of Helena Montana and actively self-employed I have known Jared Hughes 21 years . fresh out of high school he married his high school sweetheart at a young age , and they have a beautiful child together , he has been very responsible raising , and supporting his family, and is a reliable asset to his job. Since I have known Jared I have never seen him display anger or be radical in anyway! He's always been respectful and gives an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. and is loyal to a fault. If he believes in you there's nothing he won't do for you! It is that line right there that landed him in front of you. Obviously he made bad choices but he listened to the one man who he thought he could believe! President Trump. I know ignorance is no excuse of the law. This man is not gang related. He's only family-orientated weekly dinners with his entire family, I only ask that you consider all this in your sentencing. Respectfully yours Tim Ewing

From: **Ernest Hughes** <ernesthughes50@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 24, 2021 at 5:43 PM
Subject: Character reference- Jerod Hughes
To: <Jonathanzuckerlaw@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern.

I am the father of Jerod Wade Hughes. My son is the sole provider for a handicapped wife and a 14 year old daughter. Jerods a very hard working man and an integral part of his work crew. He is needed at home so he can take care of his family. My hope is that he is granted bail while his case is being heard. Thank you for your time.

Ernest Hughes

To whom it may concern,

I have known Jerod Hughes for a little over 20 years. He is married to my cousin Catherine Hughes and they have a 14-year-old daughter Andrea Hughes. Although I have been away from Montana for a few years, I still keep in touch with Catherine.

Shortly after completing her degree in network administration she started to experience medical issues. She became extremely ill and at times we wondered if she would make it. She spent years trying to get a diagnosis and receive treatment. She is only 35 years old, on disability, and unable to work and provide for her and her daughter. They have relied on Jerod to be their main financial supporter and her caretaker. She has weekly appointments that she is unable to attend without him and his income. Through my conversations with her I have learned that he works 10 hour days and still comes home and cares for her, their daughter, and the household chores. I am very worried about her and Andrea and how they will survive during this time.

Unfortunately, we all know this should have been considered prior to his actions but we also know it is easy to get caught up in the heat of a moment when you feel so passionate about something. I am not making any excuses for him and I do not support his actions. I personally am not in support of Donald Trump but I know Jerod truly believed in him. I am just asking that the welfare of his wife and child be considered during this time. It is also my understanding that he turned himself in prior to being wanted for anything. I hope this will have some weight when considering his options for being released on bail and letting him return to his family while awaiting trial.

Sincerely,

Danielle Whittern

----- Forwarded message -----

From: christinerothenbuhler@gmail.com

Date: Mar 23, 2021 9:43 PM

Subject: Jerod Hughes

To: catjennings@hotmail.com

Cc:

To whom it may concern,

I have know Jerod since 2007. Ever since I've have know him I have known him to be kind, energetic, active, always trying new hobbies and a caring individual.

Jerod is a family man. A man who strives and enjoys spending each moment of his time not just spent working but with his family and friends.

He has family fun nights and dinners on Sunday's while playing board games with his parents and family members as well as friends. He likes to fish, primarily ice fishing but as long as he is fishing with friends and family he is a happy man! Perch and walleye are what are caught mostly. Later to come is a delicious fish fry.

Drinks coffee and enjoys working with his forge. He has helped and passed down forging steel techniques to my husband and son. Explaining and teaching his experiences with this hobby.

He is always there for everyone and lends a hand anytime it is needed. Jerod does what is needed to be done for his family and friends. A well loved individual who works and works hard each day and continues to support his loving wife Catherine who bless her heart is learning and fighting through health issues left unable to work. His daughter Andrea, in her prime teenage years and in need of her father to be there. Jerod keeps the roof over his family as well as the food in their bellies, electric and heat running in their home.

He wants to be there for his family and provide. He wants and needs to be with his wife and daughter.

Thank you for your time.

Christine Rothenbuhler

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my Verizon Motorola Smartphone

----- Forwarded message -----

From: D Ferguson <dmferguson70@gmail.com>

Date: Mar 22, 2021 10:38 AM

Subject: Letter

To: catjennings@hotmail.com

Cc:

To Whom it may concern,

I have Known Jerod since 1999. He was just a teenager when I met him.

I watched him do the simple stupid things all teenagers do. We have all been there and done that. However I have also watched Jerod grow up into an upstanding young man . His devotion to his family is stellar. His wife got sick and most young men could have run the other direction. Jerod stayed true and does everything he can to provide for his family. He took on the challenges of being sole provider for his family with dignity and grace. He is a fine member of our community and a man who loves fiercely.

Dawn Ferguson

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Ernst, Andrew J" <andrewernst@eastman.com>

Date: Mar 23, 2021 4:22 AM

Subject:

To: catjennings@hotmail.com

Cc:

To whom it may concern:

My name is Andy Ernst. I have known Jerod Hughes for 19 years. We grew up together and I've always known Jerod to work hard and be dependable and reliable to his friends and family. I have known him to be a man of integrity and one with accountability. His family needs him. Please let him out on bail while you decide what is going to happen to all of those involved in all of this so that he may continue to provide for his family. Thank you for your attention to this matter.