

EXHIBIT 1



Sinai Pentecostal Church

208 Laredo St. San Marcos, TX 78666 512-353-0246

Pastors Sam & Melba Montoya

www.sinai-smtx.org



March 26, 2023

To the Honorable Judge John D. Bates

We are the parents of Samuel Christopher Montoya, our third born child. Pastors of Sinai Pentecostal Church for 52 years and will have been married for 52 years in July of this year, by the Grace of God Almighty. We have been a close knit Christian family and served our community, church and Country with love and devotion. We have stood by our children both in good and bad circumstances—Our oldest son, Jacob, 50, battling Diabetes Mellitus since the tender age of 8, our 44 year old daughter, Priscilla, an ovarian cancer survivor who continues to receive special treatments in her fight to continue to parent her 11 year old son, Luciano and now, Samuel Christopher, who, working for a free speech agency in the City of Austin and having gone to Washington, DC on January 6th, apparently participated in a behavior where he plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge and who is at the mercy of your court for sentencing. We know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Samuel regrets this action and has since apologized. We teach our children to learn from their mistakes and to pick up the pieces and better themselves. We truly believe that this can be so in Samuel's case. We appeal to you for leniency for him. Our daughter lives almost 1,000 miles away and our eldest son has been on dialysis for the past five years and is not in good health. Since we are up in years, though still in the pastorate, Samuel has been the son that has looked after us. In 2018, I, Samuel Montoya, went through my own journey with salivary gland cancer, a stage two aggressive cancer, having to undergo 33 radiation treatments. My wife, Melba, has gone through her own health issues and Samuel has been there to run errands, make sure we follow the recovery treatments, etc. He has been our right hand many times. We prayerfully ask you for leniency in the sentencing of our son. Even traveling is now an issue for us, so if he is sent away from San Marcos, it will sadly put a heavy burden in our hearts. We do what we can for our children, trying to use our resources and strength to show them our love, care and support.

Our son, during all the time of pre-trial and up to this day, (almost two years) has complied with everything the courts have asked of him. He has our love and support 100 percent. We humbly request that you consider us as you make your decision regarding our son's sentencing and know that we will be forever grateful to you, if you exercise leniency toward our son. We will help our son fulfill any and all things requested by the court.

Sincerely,

Samuel Montoya *Melba Montoya*

Samuel and Melba Montoya, Pastors

Priscilla Montoya, MSW
2860 S. Gaylord St.
Denver, CO 80210
March 29, 2023

Honorable Judge John D. Bates
C/O Flanary Law
Flanary Law Firm, PLLC
100 N.E. Loop 410, Suite 650.
San Antonio, Texas 78216.

Dear Honorable Judge John D. Bates:

I am Samuel C. Montoya's only sister and am writing to request leniency on his sentencing. As a social worker, I sincerely believe that Samuel has experienced the emotional, social and financial consequences of his actions and is truly remorseful. I know Samuel extremely well as his sister. He and I have been very close over the years both in our adolescence and in adulthood. Samuel and I have been roommates as young adults when we both were early in our careers in the state of Georgia.

I believe that the incident that led to the current charge was a complicated and layered result of influence by many people and factors that have come to light over the past several years at the national level. As a professional in the mental health sector, I was honestly concerned regarding Samuel's strong commitment towards a single ideology that was spearheaded by people with lots of financial resources and power. Since the incident, I have noticed that Samuel understands in retrospect that his actions and alignment with his former employer, were grossly misguided.

Over the past two years, Samuel has had time to critically assess his action and its long-term impacts. The emotional imprint of personally witnessing the shooting and death of Ashley Babitt, the public humiliation by the national media and the experience of his employer's criticism publicly and nationally are heavy consequences that he has already endured and will continue to deal with for life. He also has had to deal with the financial impact of this charge over time. Our family has chosen a life of service to others – myself as a social worker committed to our underserved Latinos in Colorado, my parents as pastors and community leaders, and our older brother who once served on the local town's city council. Our family may be humble but we always try to do what is best for our communities at large by giving back. Samuel is no different. He has been compliant in his pre-trial requirements, has sought different employment and continues to be the main familial support for our aging parents. Thank you for your time and consideration of leniency on his charge.

Sincerely,



Priscilla Montoya
Sister of Samuel C. Montoya

To: The Honorable Judge John D. Bates,

March 26, 2023

My name is Paul A. Martinez (Owner and Operator of FIVE STAR CLIPS LAWN CARE). I am a first-generation cousin of Samuel C. Montoya. I write this Letter of Character of Samuel Christopher Montoya with whom I've had the pleasure of knowing all my life in order to give some clarity and defend Samuel Montoya's good judgment.

Samuel C. Montoya has demonstrated numerous qualities of good character and as a valuable person with our family, our church, & for our country. In addition to this, I have observed him being polite, hardworking, and also always willing to help when needed. Samuel is also an enthusiastic, sensible and graceful person. This Letter of Character that I write does "NOT" do him justice of ALL the great things that I would like to share, for that I would probably have to write a documentary series. I feel very BLESSED to have Samuel (Sammy as family calls him) in my and my family's life. I appreciate the time that he spends with my son (Joshua 11) & his nephew Luciano (same age) just to let them know that he is there for them if they ever need someone to talk to or spend time with. Whether it's taking them camping with our boy's church group, taking them to the trampoline park & getting ice cream, or taking them floating down the river, they know that he loves them unconditionally. With that little bit being said, I feel that the charges are out of his character, & that he regrets his actions.

Under this pretext, I strongly recommend Samuel C. Montoya as a more than suitable person. I think this is a solid testimony of how his mental and moral qualities are, and I hope you consider this reference letter to look favorably upon Samuel C. Montoya or be lenient in his sentence when determining the outcome of this case.

In case you need any further information, please, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,



Paul Martinez

Cell#: 512-665-2277

email: mphecenter@gmail.com

EXHIBIT 2

Hill Country Christian School

March 27, 2023

Honorable Judge John D. Bates

Re: Character Letter for Samuel Christopher Montoya

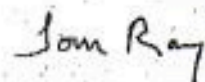
Dear Judge Bates,

It is my pleasure to write a Character Recommendation for Samuel. I have known the Montoya family for 25 years and have worked together with Pastor Montoya Sr., (Samuel's father), in the San Marcos Ministerial Association for many years. Pastor Montoya is the longest active serving minister in San Marcos, with over 50 years service to our community. Samuel attended our school for several years also.

In my opinion, as well as experience, Samuel is a quality young man from an exceptional family! Samuel has my respect and admiration. He is a positive contributor within Austin as well as San Marcos. Samuel is not, by nature, a negative influence on those around him, nor a drain on our community. I sincerely think he is worth leniency and the trust of the court! If you get the opportunity to meet Samuel's Dad, Pastor Montoya, you'll see that, "the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree," so to speak.

Thank you for your consideration and for making difficult judgements in tough circumstances. May God's blessings be upon you for your discernment and service to our State and communities!

Very sincerely,



Tom Ray, Administrator

March 27, 2023

To The Honorable Judge John D. Bates:

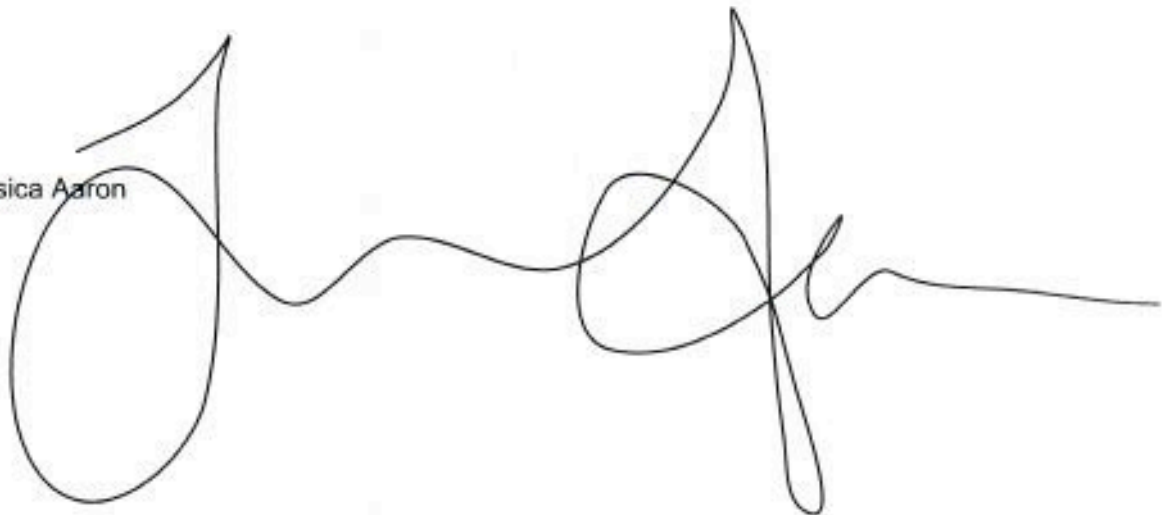
My name is Jessica Aaron and I have lived in the Austin and surrounding area for over 12 years, working in the food and health industry. I met Sam Montoya through close mutual friends over 3 years ago and immediately recognized he was an honorable and trustworthy person.

I have visited his father's church several times and consider his parents and him as good hearted people. Sam is and always has been a good friend of mine that I know I can rely on if I ever need anything and vice versa. The charges placed against Sam are out of his character's behavior and I know he deeply regrets his actions.

I ask you, Judge Bates, to please look favorably on Sam as he is, indeed, a good person. If not, please be lenient in his sentence.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jessica Aaron

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Aaron', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the typed name 'Jessica Aaron'.

John Mendoza
johnmendoza65@icloud.com
512-214-5952

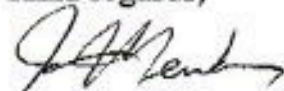
Dear Honorable Judge John D. Bates,

My name is John Mendoza and I am writing this letter on behalf of Samuel Christopher Montoya. I own a construction company and have been a pastor in the community of San Marcos, Texas for the past 12 years and have known Samuel since he was born. I am an ordained minister with the Unified Pentecostal Local Churches International, Inc. where I have met many wonderful people including Samuel and his family who have always been generous with their love, and support towards me since I moved to Texas at the age of 18 from Ohio.

I met Samuel through church and consider him a brother in Christ which is a bond I value deeply. I've enjoyed watching Samuel grow into the man he is today. Samuel has always been respectful and willing to serve others. He's served his local church through the music ministry, workdays, and speaking to the congregation about important events happening in our country. The charges being brought against Samuel are not in line with who he is. He is someone that I know who values integrity and honesty in all situations. Samuel has always been easy to talk to and makes others feel welcomed. He is an asset to the local church and is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Honorable Judge Bates I ask that you look favorably upon Samuel and consider the words that myself, and others are sharing about him. Samuel is needed by his family, and local community. He has more to offer our society and we would miss his contribution to it profoundly. It is my hope that you are moved to mercy and compassion when considering this case. I thank you for reading this and appreciate how you serve in the justice system.

Kind regards,



Pastor John Mendoza

March 26, 2023

Dear Honorable Judge John D. Bates:

I am Saul Gonzales, San Marcos City Council Member at Large. I have been informed of the arrest of Samuel Montoya. I am writing this letter in support of Samuel. I was shocked when I heard the news of his arrest. This is not normal behavior for Samuel. His family raised him with Christian values and morals and this is not in keeping with his background.

Samuel and I discussed this matter, he displayed remorse and regret concerning his conduct. Samuel understands the consequences of his behavior and has changed his behavior and the type of companions he was associating with. He realizes his decision was not appropriate and knows that he must change.

I feel he deserves the opportunity to not have this incident define his personality and future. One bad decision should not label him and mar his future. He has been a consistent worker and member of society throughout his life.

I realize the seriousness of Samuel's actions; however, I do still believe that he is a fine young man that deserves to be given another chance. I have known him since early childhood and believe this one incident should not mark him and his entire career. He should be given a chance to prove himself. Please consider leniency when reviewing the case of this young man.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saul Gonzales', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Saul Gonzales

San Marcos City Councilman

Sean Mitchell
Producer, Free Speech Systems
3019 Alvin Devane Blvd STE 300
Austin, Texas 78741
512-439-4439
Sean@FreeSpeechSystems.Com

03/23/23

To The Honorable Judge John D. Bates,

I am proud to offer my recommendation of Samuel Christopher Montoya. I have known Samuel for going on a little over three years since I started working at Free Speech Systems. It was there that we first met and got to know each other. While we started off as colleagues, I would more than consider him to be a friend to this day.

During my relationship with Samuel I have experienced an individual who is passionate, works hard and overall carries themselves in a polite, respectable manner in public. In addition, Samuel is a God-fearing man who has always tried to hold himself to a higher level of accountability than I would say most generally do. Being the son of a Preacher, he has definitely taught me a thing or two about the Bible even if I'm not the most religious person myself. Samuel may be a little too passionate sometimes with his thoughts and beliefs, but I believe it genuinely comes from a good place. Just after having a short conversation with him you can easily realize this. I know he regrets his actions and really meant no harm or did not believe he was breaking any laws at the time. Otherwise I believe he would have never entered the Capitol that day.

In closing, I would ask you, Honorable Judge John D. Bates, to look favorably upon Samuel. Please be lenient in his sentence, because I know he will never do anything of the sort again. Samuel will be more than happy to put this all behind him and focus on reshaping his future for the better.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sean Mitchell



Unified Pentecostal Local Churches, International, Incorporated
Union Pentecostés Iglesias Locales, Internacional, Incorporadas

Templo Bethel Pentecostes

REVEREND JOSUE B. SANCHEZ, PASTOR

March 27, 2023

The Honorable Judge John D. Bates

Dear Judge Bates,

I am Rev. Josue Brewster Sanchez, pastor at Templo Bethel Pentecostes of Austin, Texas. I have been in ministry since 1989 and have been the pastor at Templo Bethel since August 03, 2003. My family and I have known Mr. Samuel Christopher Montoya for more than 25 years. We met Samuel in our church services and our Youth Retreats.

I know Samuel as a good hearted loving young man. He is respectful and always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. I know for a fact that Samuel is very regretful for his actions. His charges are very out of character of who I know Samuel to be as a person.

In closing, I humbly ask the court to please consider my character witness of Samuel Christopher Montoya.

Sincerely,

Rev. Josue B. Sanchez,
Templo Bethel Pentecostes
Pastor

Michael Contreras
320 Hummnigbird Way
Martindale TX, 78655

March 26, 2023

To Honorable Judge John D. Bates:

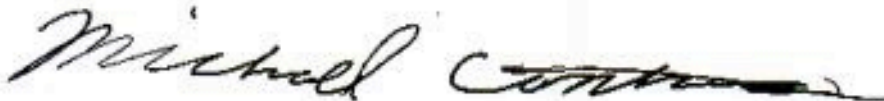
I have known Samuel Christopher Montoya for over 15 years. I met him as a fellow musician and ever since then we became close friends. I am a member of his father's church (Sinai Pentecostal Church) and I play music in the praise and worship team. I understand that matters such as this are not taken lightly but after telling you more about Samuel I am hoping for more leniency upon him.

Samuel has always been a kind individual looking out for his family and friends. I have witnessed him helping out in the various ministries of the church and the dedication he has shown. I know that this situation has changed him and he's ready to turn over a new leaf. As a person who has gone through similar change I can vouch for the positive things that are to come when this case is said and done.

Honorable Judge, I ask that you please show leniency on Samuel Christopher Montoya. His Family and his friends love him and do not want to see him go through anymore of this. He has so much to offer the community and we need him. His work here is not done and has only begun!

Sincerely,

Michael Contreras



To the Honorable Judge John D. Bates,

My name is Adan Salazar and I'd like to express support for my friend and former Free Speech Systems LLC co-worker, Samuel Christopher Montoya, whom I've had the great pleasure of working alongside for several years.

Getting to know Sam, he's always been a dedicated, kind-hearted, hardworking person driven by a strong work ethic and a willingness to go above and beyond what was expected of him. Throughout our time working together I also found him to be an upstanding, honest Christian man who loves God. He always showed a great deal of integrity and humility and treated others with respect.

Given my countless positive personal interactions with Sam, I respectfully request you look favorably upon my friend and consider his positive contributions to our community and society as a whole. I ask that you be lenient in your sentence and allow him to continue to make a positive impact on the world.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adan Salazar
Adan Salazar



March 26, 2023

Dear Honorable Judge John D. Bates:

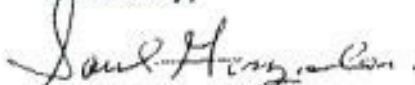
I am Saul Gonzales, San Marcos City Council Member at Large. I have been informed of the arrest of Samuel Montoya. I am writing this letter in support of Samuel. I was shocked when I heard the news of his arrest. This is not normal behavior for Samuel. His family raised him with Christian values and morals and this is not in keeping with his background.

Samuel and I discussed this matter, he displayed remorse and regret concerning his conduct. Samuel understands the consequences of his behavior and has changed his behavior and the type of companions he was associating with. He realizes his decision was not appropriate and knows that he must change.

I feel he deserves the opportunity to not have this incident define his personality and future. One bad decision should not label him and mar his future. He has been a consistent worker and member of society throughout his life.

I realize the seriousness of Samuel's actions; however, I do still believe that he is a fine young man that deserves to be given another chance. I have known him since early childhood and believe this one incident should not mark him and his entire career. He should be given a chance to prove himself. Please consider leniency when reviewing the case of this young man.

Sincerely,


Saul Gonzales

San Marcos City Councilman

Michelle A Harrold

March 28, 2023

To The Honorable Judge John D. Bates

Dear Judge John D. Bates,

My name is Michelle Harrold. I have owned and operated Tax Lady San Marcos for the last ten years. I'm writing this letter on behalf of my long-time friend, Samuel Montoya Jr., in regards to the charge he's pled guilty to for his actions on the events of January 6, 2021. I'm asking that your Honor have leniency when deciding on the sentence you will impose.

I first met Sam when he was just a young boy, while my husband was helping his parent's Church with tech related jobs. As he worked for them, we became very close with both Pastors and their family. Even at a very young age, Sam has always put his family and community first. He's volunteered on countless projects, was an active member of the church, and was always the first to offer assistance to anyone in need. Sam is one of the most considerate, loving, caring and compassionate people I've ever known.

It's my understanding that on January 6th, Sam was in Washington DC as a member of the press, and held press credentials through his employer. He was there to record and report on the history in-the-making at the time. He rendered aid to a woman who inevitably passed away, and tried to prevent her injuries from becoming worse by making room in the crowd for help to reach her. These are not the actions of a criminal. He did what he believed was the right thing to do; as a member of the press, and as a good citizen.

Again, I ask your Honor to please take this into account before imposing your sentence. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Michelle Harrold

Sam Brannon

512-925-2592
Sam@BrannonLI.com
Hays County, Texas

March 27, 2023

The Honorable Judge John D. Bates:

I am writing on behalf of Samuel Montoya, asking that he receive the lightest possible sentence, and that you dispatch any future obligations he has to the court as quickly as possible. I've known Mr. Montoya as "Sammy" since 2015, and I know Sammy to be a good man, a good Christian, a patriotic American, and a valuable part of our community.

I moved to San Marcos / Hays County, Texas in 2010, and am in good standing in the community. I've sat on the Boards of San Marcos Kiwanis, the San Marcos Texas Community Radio Association, and been appointed by the Hays County Election Commission to an ad hoc citizens' committee. I have been an elected Hays County Republican Precinct Chair, and have been a delegate representing Hays County to three state conventions.

I first met Sammy at a San Marcos City Council meeting. His 3-minute speech before the City Council was masterful, wrapping the events of the time into a subtle but powerful, biblically-based argument on behalf of the people of our town. I ran to meet him at the door, not wanting to miss the chance. We've been friends since that day.

In the years since, Sammy and I have worked on a number of projects together, and I hold him in very high regard. I've attended church with Sammy at his home church, where his father is the pastor. I've spent time in his home and with his parents / family, and I hold them all in the highest regard. Sammy is surrounded by supportive and nurturing people, and he's ready to have this behind him and to reclaim his position as an un-encumbered member of the community.

The events related to his case have been difficult on Sammy and everyone around him, and I ask the court to relieve Sammy Montoya of any further obligations.

Sincerely,



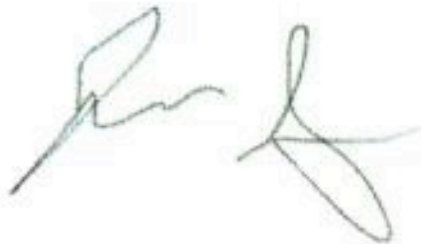
Sam Brannon

Dear Honorable Judge John D. Bates

I am writing this letter on behalf of Sam Montoya, Texan and a family man. As someone who has known Sam for 6 years now, I can confidently say that he is a kind-hearted and empathetic person who deeply cares about his family and those around him.

Sam has always been a responsible and hardworking individual. Though he may have made a mistake, I firmly believe that he is remorseful for his actions. I understand that the law must be upheld and that consequences must be faced for unlawful acts. However, I would like to urge you to consider Sam's case with leniency. He is a valuable member of our community, and his absence would be greatly felt by his loved ones and all those who know him.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Peña-Ahuyon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

-Jerry Peña-Ahuyon

3/26/2023

FROM THE DESK OF

Brandon Gray

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Judge John D. Bates
United States District Court
District of Columbia

Dear Honorable Judge John D. Bates,

I come to you as a 46 year old Army veteran, father and business owner in Texas. I met Sam Montoya 5 years ago in Austin, Texas. We were both working in the capacity of a camera man, covering local current events. I also helped in Sam's 2022 race for US Congress.

I've met few people in my life who have had an impact on me like Sam. I hope to one day be as genuine, kind, honest and charismatic as he is. Sam is the kind of guy who you can call when in need and he will immediately stop what he's doing to come meet you. I assisted with his election because I truly believe Sam embodies the integrity and personal traits we should see in our US Representatives.

I ask that you take all of this and look favorably upon Sam Montoya. Surely the evidence shows he is not a criminal, as does his track record. I thank you for your time reading this letter.

Sincerely yours,

-Brandon Gray

Matthew Gonzales
1301 North Bishop St.
San Marcos TX 78666

March 26, 2023

To Honorable Judge John D. Bates:

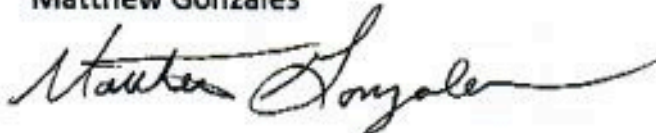
I am currently serving as the Men's Ministry President for our church (Sinai Pentecostal Church). This is how I became acquainted with Samuel Christopher Montoya. I have known Samuel for 3 years and the first impression he made on me is he is a very honest and up front person. I consider him a very close friend of mine. One thing I can tell you about Samuel is that he is a man that learns from his mistakes.

One thing I can assure you is that he deeply regrets this unfortunate situation. He continues to mature and learn in all areas of life. He is a man full of life, love, and laughter. He always sees the good in everyone and encourages everyone to do better in life. He has a way of bringing the best out of you. That is why I can assure you that he deeply regrets what he has done.

Honorable Judge John D. Bates, I know that you do not know me. However, I am asking that you will look favorably and mercifully upon Samuel Christopher Montoya and give him a second chance. I can assure you that he has learned from this incident.

Sincerely,

Matthew Gonzales

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Gonzales". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.