

United States v. Thaddis Johnson JR.

Case No. 1:22-mj-00080-SAB

Exhibit A – Community Support Letters

Dear Honorable Judge Bates,
United States District Court Judge
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
333 Constitution N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

My name is Leila Johnson, I am the mother of Thaddis. I am retired from serving our country with the United States Navy and from being a Correctional Officer with the State of California Department of Corrections at Avenal State Prison. I've always instilled very strong morals and principles in my son and he's always been someone I can trust and lean on especially when his father was reactivated and deployed from the US Reserves when 9/11 took place. I could always count on him to take great care of his younger sister and brother. I worked hard and paid for him to attend private schools from kindergarten all the way until 9th grade. He was always at the top of his classes in his studies and always made it a point to study the word of God. We went to church weekly, and I kept him in sports year round from kindergarten until he graduated high school. He always would tell me how he wants to make this world a better place and had a passion for being a motivational speaker.

Once Thaddis graduated high school and started working various jobs he showed an excellent sense of leadership and dedication in many jobs he worked for. He was top in sales at pretty much any store or office he worked for and always pushed the people of his work environment to become the best versions of themselves. He often was a key holder for his places of employment. Almost 10 years ago he began making music for God and has really made some amazingly inspiring records that bring tears to my eyes. He's a very special individual that never ceases to amaze me.

In 2020, he became heavily involved in using his voice to advocate for our rights in the black lives matter movement and the anti-child trafficking movement

organizing events and making sure they were coordinated with law enforcement. For the things he has done here in the city of Lemoore, a person from the local police department here in Lemoore had said they had considered giving him an award for his conduct. His platform began to grow from going live at these events and ultimately that's what pushed him to travel to DC on January 6th to use his platform to show people what was happening. I assure you that he wholeheartedly believed that he was doing his country a service by being present there that day and showing support for the country because at the time he honestly thought the election was stolen and really just wanted to support America.

I assure you his conduct was not out of malice or intended to harm anyone or anything because he views himself as a true follower of Jesus. He understands that he made a mistake by entering the building to see what was happening, but I assure you his intent was positive and I personally think it was out of genuine curiosity though we understand that he broke the rules.

Since that event, He's had 2 beautiful young babies and has done so much to be a great father for them everyday. He's much more focused on family now than ever and its very a beautiful thing to see, His kids love him so much. He is employed with the city of Fresno and working with the youth and community services out here and has been doing great. I know you may deal with many cases regarding this event, but I pray that you see that this man is a good man who just made an honest mistake. He is really a blessing to my life, our family and the rest of his community. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Leilia Johnson

4 December 2022

To: Honorable Judge Bates
United States District Court Judge
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
333 Constitution N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

My name is Thaddis Johnson Sr. I'm the father of Thaddis. I am a retired veteran with 21 years of service. I'm also a retired peace officer. I served 25 years at California Department of Corrections at Avenal state prison. 21 of those years was as a Sergeant before I retired. So this is really difficult for me to write. Because, I have always held myself and my kids to a higher standard of putting God first and respecting the law and others.

Thaddis have always been a very intelligent and respectful kid. He were always one of the brightish kids in his class. He attended christian school up until 10 grade. Due to being blessed with talent in sports he wanted to attend public school to play more competitive sport. He always stood out as one of the best players in every sport that he played. He was a great inspiration to a lot of younger kids that played basketball and football. He would volunteer many hours to help with camps and practices with these young kids to inspire them to be better players.

Thaddis was such a great kid. I never had to discipline him due to his good behavior. He always new right from wrong. He was part of the youth program in the church were he attended weekly. One thing I have always express to Thaddis and his sibling to treat people like you want to be treated and never say or do anything to another that you wouldn't want to be said or do to you.

After Thaddis completed high school he worked in sales. He was awarded for being the top salesman for the entire west coast. He later became the manager of the company the next year and was tasked with interviewing and hiring of staff. He interview hundreds of people that applied. I was really impress due to he was only 19 years old at the time. He again was awarded for the company had the most sales in the entire country. This continued with every company that he worked for. They would move him around from different stores to increase stores sales and training the staff. He was always one of the top salesman in the state.

He later started the movement organizing and being a voice in Save Our Children that spread around the world. His platform grew around the world to bring light for people to protect the children that was being child trafficking. This movement that he took pride in was very special to

him. He felt he was bringing light and making changes to something that would protecting our children. I was really proud of what he was doing.

Thaddis began to follow politics which was surprising to see that he was a young man growing up. He believed what Trump had said, that the election was stolen. He felt at the time by going to DC that he was exercising his freedom of rights by protesting this issue. He only wanted to be there to be of part of the march. He had no idea it was going escalate into this horrible day of January 6. As he have stated to me, "I should have never went to DC." Yes he did enter into the building but he did not do any damages. Nor did he take part into assaulting any capital staff. I believe that sometimes people do things that at the time do not realize they are committing a crime. I believe this is one of them. He knows now he made a honest mistake and he truly regrets it every day.

Since that event . Thaddis have become the father of two beautiful kids. He have taken every step to be the best dad he could be. It is amazing to see the expression on the kids face when he walks in the room. I am proud of the patient, love and care that he gives his kids. He is currently working for the city of Fresno with the youth and community services. He is a blessing to myself, our family and his family. Thank you your honor for your consideration!

Sincerely

Thaddis Johnson Sr

Dear Judge Bates,

My name is Joseph Diaz and I am submitting a character reference on behalf of Thaddis Johnson. Thank you for taking the time to consider my words.

My passion is leadership and I have been in sales management since June of 2009. Today I work in software sales and I also do part time leadership consulting. My hobbies, if it creates any context for you, include racquetball, hot yoga, going to church, reading, attending personal development seminars and listening to live music but nothing is more interesting to me than being an active member in my family and contributing to the homeless community in Downtown Fresno. My dream is to build a series of tiny home communities in Fresno so that people have an additional safety net when their network falls short. In addition to this, one day I'd love to be a motivational speaker around the topics of suicide prevention and leadership (separately).

Now that you have some context on what I value I'd love to share what I know about Thaddis, who I'll refer to as TJ. TJ and I met in 2011 in the summer time when I opened my second CUTCO branch office as a 20 year old. It was obvious to me from the beginning that TJ had leadership skills and influence but he was mostly inactive. One day I overheard him say that he wanted to quit and didn't want to be part of the team anymore while we were making calls. At this point he was at zero in sales. I asked him if I could talk to him outside and had the intention of letting him resign from his position. Something in my gut challenged me to ask him to give it one more try. Long story short, he did. That week he was number one on the team and asked to move into a leadership intern position. I challenged him to match his number from the week before and show up as a leader and then I'd consider it. He did just that. Before the end of the summer TJ was the number one sales rep on our team, which won the first national championship Branch award in central California history. The next year my father passed away and I had promised him we'd go after the all time record in passing. TJ and a few of my other now very close friends MOVED to Fresno to help break the record. We did just that. In 70 years of company history this team had done what had never been done before, all with TJ as a lead sales manager and recruiter. The next year we did it again.

TJ has always been a leader. He brings out the best in people and he self sacrifices for causes that he believes in. TJ is a seeker of information and truth. Once he finds a cause worth contributing to he tries to do just that. I asked him just yesterday "I know you have questions about a lot of things, what's the one thing that you know for sure that if you had a magic wand you would equip me with?" His reply, "I know for sure that being a father is the best experience in the

world." Now he's decided to be a leader to his family and once again, he will do the best that he can.

In addition to our working capacity TJ and I are friends. We've played video games together, we've had difficult conversations, we've held each other accountable, we've seen each other grow and we've had time apart. It's without a doubt that I believe this is someone who has his heart in the right place and is looking for a place to give his all to. It seems like being a father is the box he's checking now and I'm confident that with the right vision and mission he will add tremendous value to our community and country. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Joseph Diaz



Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services Department

Ted C. Wills Community Center
770 N. San Pablo Avenue
Fresno, CA 93728-3640
(559) 621-6720 FAX (559) 488-1557
www.fresno.gov

August 12, 2022

To: Judge Bates

RE: Thaddis Johnson

Dear Judge Bates,

My name is Andre McMahon I am a Community Services & Recreational Supervisor for the City of Fresno Adult Sports Program. I have known Thaddis Johnson since the age of 5, long enough to not only consider him a friend but more importantly family in all aspects.

Thaddis Johnson for those who may not know is the most honest & kindhearted soul you will ever meet. Sounds cliché but he is every bit of the example of a person who will give the shirt off his back to a person in need. As a community leader I have many times found myself short on staff & relying upon close friends & family for help, I can without a doubt say every time I have reached out no matter the distance nor the time commitment Thaddis has always been ready & available to help in whatever way he can. For example, Thaddis has volunteered for a number of our sports program in the role of a sports official, scorekeeper, custodian & participant as well.

Above all if there is anything I have been blessed to witness it has been the growth of Thaddis Johnson as a father to two beautiful newborn babies. As a father myself one of the best quotes I have heard is that "fatherhood is a never-ending riddle" to which I respectfully request we continue to allow Thaddis Johnson the time and space to not only find his path but more importantly guide his children as well.

Nobody in this world is perfect & sometimes some our biggest mistakes are an opportunity for growth. I understand there is still a lot to be determined, but what I will say is I have no doubt that this moment is only a small chapter in the life of a natural born leader. Thaddis Johnson is clearly a man of action & more importantly a gift to anybody who has had the pleasure to get to know him. Granted the opportunity I look forward to working alongside Thaddis Johnson again soon. In closing our three principles for our program are based upon the following: community, competition & most importantly sportsmanship. All which Thaddis Johnson represents on & off the playing field/court.

If there are any additional questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me direct at [REDACTED]

Respectfully,

Andre McMahon
Community Services and Recreation Supervisor

Kelly S. Hunsicker

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

July 25, 2022

Hon. John D. Bates

United States District Court Judge

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

333 Constitution N.W.

Washington, D.C. 200001

Dear Judge Bates,

My name is Kelly Hunsicker. I am a 54 year old mother and grandmother to 7 children. Most of my life has been spent being a homemaker and a military spouse. I have known Thaddius Johnson (TJ) for approximately 2 1/2 years on Facebook. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know what I think about him.

First of all I would like to say that I find him to be an exceptional young man. My first encounter with him was a post in which he was helping a candidate campaign in California. To see such a young man so passionately speaking on this candidate's behalf instantly gave me hope that our younger generation is not all lost. I became a so called, "fan" immediately.

In the time that we have been friends on social media I have grown to love him as one of my own children. I cheer his accomplishments, I sympathize with him when he is down, and I pray for him daily. Not too many of my Facebook acquaintances have garnered the love and respect that I have for TJ. I find him to be a warm and good hearted soul that will continue to be a beacon of light to all he encounters. Daily I look forward to his posts, especially when he quotes scripture from the Bible. It speaks to me and a whole host of others when he does and if anything I am grateful that he is helping to bring me closer in my relationship to God. That's quite a magnificent feat for a young man to help an older woman like me with.

I pray you find it in your heart to be as kind to TJ as he is to others. He is a good and proud father, a wonderful mentor to all who seek his advice and knowledge and most of all he is someone that I am honored to call a friend.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kelly S. Hunsicker

August 11, 2022

Hon. Judge D. Bates

United States District Court Judge

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

333 Constitution N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Bates,

Good day, my name is Laura Belisle. Despite my busy schedule at a law firm in Dallas, Texas, co-owner of a national real estate development business, and full-time online student, it is of utmost importance to me to write to you today on behalf of a close friend, TJ (Thaddis Johnson). TJ and I met well over 10 years ago, communicate daily, and I have no doubt we will be lifelong friends. To be frank, TJ is the last person who has ever come into my life who I would have thought would need a character reference letter. That is because first, TJ is one of the most honorable and honest people I have ever met, and secondly, his generous and humble personality speaks for itself.

While there is an abundance of characteristics I could highlight for you, what I believe is most important is TJ's commitment to his faith and his family. Both are his foundation in life, and he is unwavering in his commitment to them. TJ is my friend who is never too busy to listen or to encourage me. There have been many days I have left work and reached out to TJ for encouragement because I would be distraught wondering if I did enough that day to help a client. As a single parent, my transition time between work and school is minimal and TJ has a way of knowing just what to say, what Bible verse will move mountains in someone's life and bring a sense of relief and encouragement at just the right moment. He has been supportive by talking me through situations when I felt lost with my teenage daughter. He has prayed with me as I opened a new business and pushed me to persevere when the future looked bleak. TJ probably

does not even know this, but he has been a guiding force in my faith journey. Without hesitation, I can say he is the reason I made it through many struggles. He has always been willing to put himself aside to help others. He is not that guy who is only this type of person around people he is close to, TJ will help a stranger without hesitation. He will pray for someone he has never met and encounters during the workday. He has found a way to share his faith through his musical talents and I mention this because its one more way TJ gives back. He finds joy in helping others and lifting them up. When TJ shared with me he was expecting his first child, I knew he would be the greatest father. His childhood experiences taught him the value of commitment and devotion to family. Now, as a father of two children, I see him every day, loving his babies and teaching them the beauty and joy of faith and family. He works hard to protect and provide for his family and in my eyes, is the epitome of an honest, faithful man.

Regarding this case, TJ has not spoken much about it and knowing him, its because its all so out of the ordinary for him to be in this position. He has expressed penitence to me and how this situation brings a very somber feeling. As you know, his record is clean. TJ is not one to do harm to anyone or anything. I implore you to consider the above elements as you proceed with this case.

Respectfully,

Laura Belisle

July 22, 2022

Hon. John D. Bates
United States District Court Judge
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
333 Constitution N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Bates,

My name is Ellen Barrows and I am writing this on behalf of Thaddis Johnson and this letter shall serve as character reference documentation. I am employed as a Clinical Trial Specialist for a global medical device manufacturer, and I live in Massachusetts.

I have been Facebook “friends” with TJ (as I know him) for the past 2.5-3 years and have only known him in this virtual online community. During that time, I have grown very fond of TJ and appreciate him for his knowledge of scripture and The Bible. I have watched his interactions with his followers and friends, and he has always been respectful, polite and friendly. We have mutual friends in the Facebook community. It should be noted that I am very cautious of so many people on Facebook and immediately unfollow/unfriend those that I find are hostile or argumentative. I do not find TJ to be of this nature, at all, nor have I witnessed any discussion that he has participated in that would suggest it. He is approachable, patient and always kind and I find this to be a rare quality especially in the Facebook community where you can be anybody and deception runs rampant. I have a good radar for dishonesty. TJ has demonstrated even temperament and consistent honorability and integrity.

Even though I am twice his age and officially his “elder” (as he affectionately has called many of the “older” friends), I sincerely value his opinion and knowledge and I admire his intellect. We have had several private discussions in Facebook messenger about Jesus and other topics where we share common ground. Additionally, I have sought his feedback regarding my son who is the same age as TJ. I appreciate these interactions and I trust TJ. I have listened to his music and find him to have a unique talent. I normally do not favor his style of music, but he has integrated his passion for God in his music so that has caught my ear and attention.

TJ “walks the walk” when it comes to Jesus and scripture. He is compassionate about the wellbeing of his parents, family and friends. He is a devoted and loving father to his two children. He is passionate in general, but I do not believe he has a negative or hostile bone in his body. I would not write this letter if I did not support his intentions or even if I had a fraction of doubt about his integrity.

I feel I am a good judge of character. TJ is an exceptional human being, and I can honestly say I love him like a son and I regard him as a good friend. There are not many people I have met online that qualify under these circumstances.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincere Regards,

Ellen Barrows

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]