

December 10, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in regards to Matthew Comella. As someone who has personally worked with Matthew I am very interested in being able to speak on his behalf to inform others of his honest and respectable nature. Matthew is someone who is very self-aware, determined, and unapologetically himself. Like all of us he has made mistakes in his past, unlike many of us he has worked extremely hard to learn and improve from those mistakes in his mission to become the best person he can be to himself and others.

In this culture of "pick yourself up by the bootstraps" we are all encouraged to make goals, better yet make dreams, and then to do the work necessary to achieve them. In the same token our society also creates barriers for those that do not fit the mold, as if we all are not with our own personal faults. We all have the right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness and once mistakes have been made, and redemption has been achieved, then that right should stand strong.

The ability to start a business and work for oneself is a dream that Matthew is chasing in his pursuit of happiness and if this last barrier can be overcome I know he will prove himself to all concerned.

Matthew always extends his hand to help others in his apartment community. He is a hard worker and he hasn't given up on his dreams to own his own business. He is determined to end his personal experience with poverty and has been very persistent in taking many steps to achieve his goals and to become a successful business owner.

We all deserve second chances, but more so those that work intentionally towards improving themselves and their quality of life. Matthew has not displayed one reason that he should be further penalized for events he has already been punished for. He is a grand example of someone that has worked hard to show others how rehabilitation should be done. Please consider that with power come great responsibility and also the ability to help, change, or form dreams for those that are striving to reach the American dream. Please consider the decision on Matthew's permit; I know he will be well worth the investment!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alvina Haile-Recio". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.

Alvina Haile-Recio
Catholic Community Services
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