

Bobby Murray
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April 29, 2016

Mr. Jerry B. Adger, Director
S.C. Dept. of Probation, Parole & Pardon Svcs.
2221 Devine Street, Suite 600
Columbia, S.C. 29250

Subj: Character Reference/Felony Conviction

For: Valarie J. Gibson
137 Angel Garden Way
Columbia, S.C. 29223

Dear Mr. Adger:

I am writing to share with you my firm beliefs and support for Mrs. Valarie J. Gibson's moral character and decency as a member of our community. I am the former Director of Transportation (Retired) for Richland County School District One in Columbia, S.C. and Valarie's first school bus supervisor when she graduated Lower Richland High School. I had the privilege to witness her growth as an employee, and eventually how she became a model for other employees to emulate. Quite often, Valarie and I would have conversations regarding her growth and future endeavors. She eventually realized that she could do better things with her life. She later became a bank and finance employee, got married, had children and finally became a deputy sheriff.

In later years, I would occasionally bump into Valarie. When I first saw her in a deputy's uniform, I became more than proud of her accomplishment. She told me of her joy to "give back to the community" and the pride she has for the job.

When I first learned of the "felony" charge against Valarie and the other officers, I could not believe, nor understand how this could be. When Valarie called, she was quite apologetic and embarrassed for her actions. She insisted that she had been manipulated but did take full responsibility, as well as understand the price she now has to pay for devastating her own life and standing in the community.

Please understand that Valarie is a very good person. Yes, she did make a bad decision that will forever haunt her, but should that decision be such a burden that she cannot live an "involved life" in our society. As a grandmother with twin grandsons, Valarie has shared that she would have to have a "waiver" to get on the base at Fort Bragg in North Carolina just to visit her family. She has also shared with me that she is the only support to her

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daughter (Connie Johnson) to help with one of the autistic twins when her son-in-law (Sgt. Bobby Johnson) has assigned duties away from the base. I implore your support and unfettered wisdom in considering a pardon for Valarie J. Gibson so that she may have the opportunity get her life back.

Respectfully,


Bobby Murray

Cc: The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201