

ROBERT L. ABRAMS, CPA

255 COURT STREET
PO BOX 330
PAINTSVILLE, KY 41240
PHONE: 606.789.5101 FAX: 606.789.7133
babrams_cpa@yahoo.com

January 05, 2017

The Honorable Danny Reeves
United States District Judge
U.S. District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, KY 40507

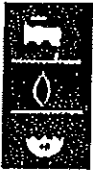
Dear Judge Reeves

I am writing on behalf of my friend Robert Porter to request leniency in his sentencing. I have known Bob since moving to Paintsville in 1978. Overall, Bob is a good citizen who has worked for the betterment of his community and hometown. Prior to his election, our downtown had many vacancies and dilapidated buildings, but Bob worked diligently to clean up and improve our town. He has also made a difference through his leadership and willingness to work. It is not uncommon to see Bob support local events or assisting with local organizations' projects. Please consider my request for leniency.

Sincerely



Robert L. Abrams



Paintsville Utilities

137 Main Street
P.O. Box 630
Paintsville, Kentucky 41240
Phone (606) 789-2630
Fax # (606) 789-2631

January 5, 2017

The Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judge
U. S. District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Re: Robert Porter

Dear Judge Reeves:

During my relatively short time as general manager of Paintsville Utilities, I have had many interactions with former Mayor Bob Porter. During that time, I found him to be a strong advocate for the citizens of Paintsville. From the many calls I received, I learned that he was available to the citizens at all hours. This availability and concern for the citizens was evident up to the point his resignation became effective. In our conversations, he was always positive and always respected the answers he received, even when it was not what he wanted to hear.

When I unexpectedly assumed the management role at Paintsville Utilities, I was greatly comforted by the support I received from Mayor Porter. His assistance was extremely valuable as we worked on recovery efforts after the devastating flash flooding which occurred in Johnson County in 2015. The contacts he was able to make enabled us to save several days in restoring water service to some areas of our county, which were well outside the city limits.

In consideration of Mr. Porter's long term dedicated and caring service to the residents of the City of Paintsville, I respectfully request that you consider any leniency available within federal guidelines in determining sentence for Mr. Porter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Pack".

Bob Pack
General Manager

Darcy Jo Porter
112 Second Street
Paintsville, KY 41240
January 5, 2017

The Honorable Danny C Reeves
US District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Honorable Judge Reeves:

In pursuit of leniency, I am respectfully requesting your discretion while sentencing Robert Porter.

Though we share a surname, I bear no relation to Mr. Porter. However, I have known him for many years. As a young adult who has lived in Paintsville, Kentucky for most of my life, I have had the privilege of observing the positive influence he exerts on my community. He has been a role model for me personally and I know he has served in that function for many others as well. Regardless of any perceived wrongdoings, a lifetime of evidence demonstrates his heart will always lie with his community.

Through his years of public service, both personal and political, Mr. Porter's focus has always been on his region. He has taught me the importance of investing our time, talent, and heart in the place we call home. I have seen him tirelessly pursue programs and funding for the betterment of the area. I only hope that one day I might be as relentless in my desire to help my neighbor.

However, Mr. Porter's social conscience does not cease with the community as a whole. His support of individual children, families, and the elderly goes well above his call to public service. On several occasions, I have witnessed Mr. Porter ensure that the needs of individuals are met. Sometimes, he has connected those in need with community resources, but often times, I have observed Mr. Porter take a more personal role. Behind the scenes, he often provides the needed resources personally. His passion for service and his capacity for love exceed what you usually find in today's public servant. In truth, he exemplifies the concept, "Love thy neighbor".

Regardless of the outcome of this trial, his investment in our community and its people will not fade away. We cannot forget what he has shown and taught us about responsibility for and to our neighbors. However, long term incarceration might impede any such influence on future generations. I truly believe Mr. Porter has much left to give our community and it would be a terrible waste to lose such influence for any amount of time. Therefore, I, once again, respectfully request your leniency in sentencing Robert Porter and thank you for considering my plea.

Sincerely,



Darcy Jo Porter

January 5, 2017

The Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judge
United States District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

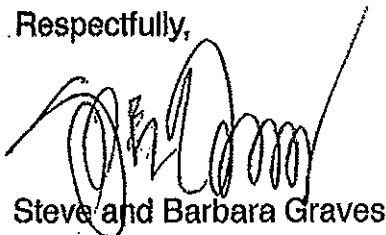
RE: Robert Porter

Dear Judge Reeves,

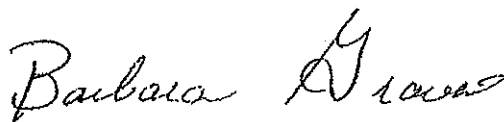
This letter is written in support of Bob Porter who we have known for over 46 years. We know him to be a man of honor and compassion. After a successful career in Lexington he returned to his hometown of Paintsville, Kentucky and ran for mayor so he could make a difference in his community and most certainly not for personal game.

Bob is a good man, a family man and a wonderful father, grandfather, friend and public servant. The charges against him are not consistent with how he has lived his life and served his community and should account for some consideration in the upcoming sentencing phase.

Respectfully,



Steve and Barbara Graves



January 6, 2017

Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judge
US District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, KY 40507

RE: Robert Porter

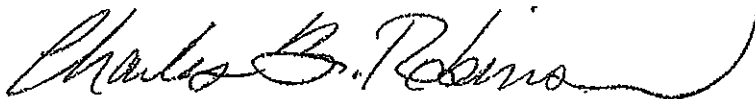
Honorable Reeves:

I am writing this letter in regards to the indictment of Mr. Robert Porter of Paintsville, KY. I have known Mr. Porter and his family for many years. I was very disappointed in the happenings regarding his misappropriations while acting as Mayor. Although I do not condone his actions, I do think he has made Paintsville a much better town since taking office. He and his wife were often seen helping the underprivileged (esp after the floods) and were always trying to promote the city to get new industries and companies to come to Paintsville. Hopefully you will consider these positive things when you decide on sentence. Many of Paintsville's citizens still support him and are thankful for what he has accomplished over the past several years.

Bob is also a very family oriented individual. He and his wife have two children, three grandchildren, and now two new great grandchildren. He has been the male father figure for all of them and they will miss him tremendously if/when he has to be incarcerated. Please consider the effect of his absence on the entire family. They have been devastated by all of this and not having him there will be very hard on all of them, especially the younger ones who can't understand what is happening.

I cannot image how hard it must be making decisions that affect so many people, I hope you will consider the above information when determining Mr. Porter's sentence.

Respectfully,



Charles B. Robinson

January 4, 2017

Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judge
US District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, KY 40507

RE: Robert Porter

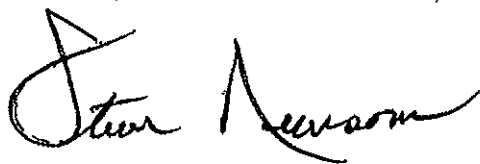
Your Honor, Mr. Reeves:

I am writing this letter in regards to the recent indictment of Mr. Robert (Bob) Porter. I have known Mr. Porter and his family for many years. It saddened me greatly to learn of his inappropriate actions as described in the local newspaper. Although I do not condone Bob's actions in any way, I would ask that you consider the positive things he has done for the numerous people in his community when deciding on his sentence. Bob and his wife, Bonnie, have strived to improve the City of Paintsville in many ways and have devoted much of their personal time to help needy families, promote the City, and enrich the lives of the citizens that live there. Bob had indicated his desire to make the City a better place when he was making the initial decision to run for Mayor and many local citizens think the City is better now than it was before he took office. The fact he has been re-elected more than once reinforces this belief.

The other major factor I would ask you to consider is the fact that Bob's family is very close knit. He has raised not only his two children, but has been the father figure to his grandchildren and now great-grandchildren. It has been devastating for the older ones to hear the town gossip and try to defend him as in their eyes, he is their idol. Although they must understand the inappropriate actions must be dealt with, they will also bear the punishment during his absence. Hopefully the two recently born great-grandchildren will have the opportunity to know Bob as have his grandchildren.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Respectfully,

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

Steve Newsom

Mary Lynn Blakeman
3249 Drayton Place
Lexington, KY 40503

January 8, 2017

Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judge
US District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Re: Character reference for Robert Porter

Your Honor:

My name is Mary Lynn Blakeman, a retired teacher and consultant for "Special Needs Students" in the Fayette County School System.

I have known Bob for over 40 years. He is married to one of my best friends and a lifelong friend, Bonnie Jo Meade, from Prestonsburg, KY. I first met Bob when I was asked to be in their wedding. I know Bob to be an industrious, hardworking, family man who is community minded. I have seen Bob and Bonnie work hard to make Paintsville a better place to live and visit. Even when they have to leave town they both continue to work by phone and/or other devices. As the Mayor of Paintsville Bob seemed to be eager in making Paintsville the town it is today.

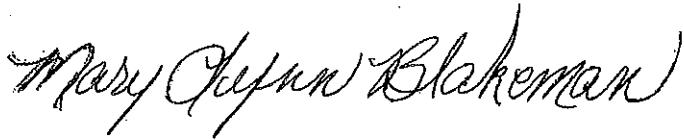
I understand the trouble Robert Porter is in, because his wife, Bonnie Porter has expressed those problems and concerns with me and other friends. Bob and Bonnie have a support system surrounding them which include many friends and family close by.

To me, Robert Porter is a good man and has always been honest with me as a friend. Over the years, what I have observed most is his love for his family. He not only reared two children but has also helped his daughter and her two children when needed. His love of his family serves to encourage me to do the same for my family.

I know Bob well enough that just going through this experience and moving forward with his life would be advantageous not only for him but more importantly also for his family. I know that a sentencing of a prison term will only serve as a tremendous hardship for his wife who will bear the responsibility of trying to repay the costs of the court case, restitution, and day to day living expenses. I also believe that both of his children (son and daughter) will be tremendously adversely affected if he is required to go to prison.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope I have given enough information on Robert Porter's character. Should you require further information I can be reached at (859)420 5600.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Lynn Blakeman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mary Lynn Blakeman

December 19, 2016

Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judge
US District Judge
Lexington, Ky. 40507

Dear Judge Reeves:

I write to you on behalf of Bob Porter, Mayor of the town of Paintsville, Kentucky. I have lived in Paintsville for the past seventy (70) years, served in the United States of America Air Force, with a tour in Viet-Nam, and presently serve on the Paintsville Utility Commission. It has been a privilege to know and work with Mayor Porter who has done a outstanding job as Mayor - keeping the town progressive and active in an array of many activities.

I along with many others realize that judgement has been rendered and would like to ask you, as judge, to take into account Mayor Porter's public service to the community as consideration to be lenient as to punishment. Incarceration of Mayor Porter, due to his age, would serve no good purpose. Our hope and prayer is that you could utilize other methods of punishment other than incarceration.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Respectively,
Linh B. LeMaster

12/19/16

To:

The Honorable Danny C. Reeves

United States District Judge

US District Court 101 Barr Street Lexington KY 40507

From:

Shawn S. Thompson 404 Margaret Heights Paintsville KY 41240

Dear, Honorable Danny C. Reeves,

I am contacting you in reference to Robert Porter, former Mayor of Paintsville KY. I understand it falls to you to decide the sentencing on his case. I feel compelled to reach out to you to voice my feelings on the impact Mr. Porter has had on our community and more importantly on the youth of our small city. He has gone well above and beyond every day to serve this City, beyond his requirement as Mayor. I have been a resident of Paintsville, KY for 50 years and have known Mr. Porter for many years and most recently served my city as a member of the city council. While I cannot speak for all the citizens of our city, I feel confident in saying the majority of our populous would like to see our former Mayor and friend given the most lenient of sentences so he can continue to support his and my home town.

Respectfully,

Shawn S. Thompson



Redd, Brown & Williams Real Estate Services

Corporate Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1720, Paintsville, KY 41240

606-789-8119, Fax 606-789-5414

E-mail: tpreston@rbandw.com, Cell Phone 606- 205-7890

RBandW.com

Real Estate Sales and Consulting, State Certified Appraisers, Auctioneers, Education



December 20, 2016

The Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judge
United States District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

RE: Robert Porter

My name is Teresa Preston, a practicing real estate agent in Paintsville, Kentucky. I have been a lifelong friend of Robert Porter. Our families were friends before our births. Robert Porter and I were friends during childhood and remained close during our adult lives. I know Robert Porter as well as any person other than his immediate family could. I know him to be industrious, hardworking, family man who is community-minded and other-centered. He has worked hard in his church family and in fact, extremely hard in his job as Mayor of Paintsville.

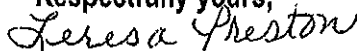
I understand the trouble Robert Porter is in, because what some believe were wrongdoings.

For me, Robert Porter is a good man. He is honest to me as a friend. His love to his family encourages me to do the same to my family. There was even a time when he worked multiple jobs just to supply the educational needs of his children and grandchildren.

He certainly understands that he may have made wrong decisions and expresses regrets at his actions. He would like to learn from this experience and move forward with his life. I believe that an extended prison term will serve as a tremendous hardship for his wife, who will bear the responsibility of trying to bear the responsibility of any cost or restitution and will be adversely affected if he is required to go to prison.

Thank you all in advance for your help and support to Robert Porter in this important time.

Respectfully yours,


Teresa Preston

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to Bob Porter. I have lived in Paintsville all of my life. Bob has always been such a help to our community. I own a cosmetology school in Paintsville Ky. Bob has always been so supportive. He always attended our functions and been eager to support and help in any way. Even before he became Mayor, Bob has always had a heart to help the less fortunate.

The people here in Paintsville believe in him as he does them. I know that Bob Porter is a good man and he loves his community and has proven that in so many ways by making a difference in our lives. Bob believes in his community and the people who live here. He has always encouraged and helped those who are less fortunate. Whether it be by making sure little children had shoes or Christmas gifts or whatever the need. He was always eager to help. Because he believed in us we found it easier to believe in ourselves. The biggest and best investment anyone could ever make is investing in someone's life and Bob Porter has made our community a better place by doing this.

To me the worst thing that can happen to an individual or a community is to have no hope. We found HOPE by having Bob Porter as our mayor. I believe with all my heart Bob Porter is a good man and done a great job as our Mayor. He was elected over and over because the people's choice the majority here in Paintsville I'm sure feel the same.

Sincerely


Jeanetta Thornbury

**512 Elm Street
Paintsville, KY 41240**

December 19, 2016

**Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judge
U. S. District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, KY 40507**

Your Honor:

I am a retired attorney in Paintsville, KY and a life-long resident and friend of former Mayor Bob Porter.

As a resident of Paintsville, I am aware of a small group of persons, some of who should probably be under indictment themselves, who sought revenge against Bob. This group does not represent the majority of our community. Although Bob has been convicted of the charged offences, I can assure you that he has been an excellent mayor whose main concerns have been for the betterment of our city and the welfare of his family.

I am asking for your compassion and leniency with your sentencing. Bob is 70 years old and long prison time would be devastating to his family and our community.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. C. Mullins", written over a horizontal line.

**W. C. Mullins
Attorney at Law**

Dec. 19, 2016

The Honorable Danny C Reeves
United States District Judge
US District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Your Honor,

My name is Todd Porter and I am the son of Bob Porter mentioned in the closing remarks of my dad's trial. The intent of my correspondence is to implore you to exercise mercy and consider the circumstance in the sentencing of my father for the crimes of which he has been convicted.

I accept the fact that my dad has been convicted of crimes by a jury of his peers. I accept that he made serious mistakes that led to the ability of the prosecution to convince the jury to render this decision. I do not, however, accept that dad is a criminal mastermind or ever had any intent to defraud the public or the citizens of Paintsville, KY.

I realize that it would be easy, on the surface, to see me merely as a family member with his head in the sand over something I didn't want to happen or refused to believe. I accept that I may suffer from this bias and have done everything in my power to mitigate its impact on this communicate. That all said, I am personally aware of this bias and still come to the same conclusion that I must reach out to you directly with this additional context.

It is important for me, and I believe for my dad, to think long and hard about exactly what I want to write and how I want to write it. As I'm beginning to write this letter, Oct. 3rd of 2016, the sting of hearing it said by the court that my father is guilty is still fresh in my ear. I'm sad and frustrated by many aspects of how this all came about. Three months later, as I finish this letter, the sting is still present.

I'm sad that dad was made to look and sound like a criminal mastermind—which I know to be simply untrue. I'm frustrated that dad didn't exercise better judgement, and that he underestimated how his poor judgement could be spun into a story of systematic criminal behavior. I'm sad that he faces incarceration. I'm frustrated at the idea of an extended period of time where I will not be able to communicate with a man I've spoken with almost daily since I left Kentucky almost 16 years ago.

Bob Porter is one of the kindest people I've ever known. I believe I would say this regardless of him being my dad. I believe this because of the overwhelming support he is receiving before during and after this trial—particularly from the townspeople that have watched the trial of their mayor unfold. In fact, I believe his innate kindness and inability to say “no” to the people in his life were the catalyst for the situation he found himself in now. That he still is able to walk through this very small town with such support from his peers speaks to his continuing love for the place I was born and which he still calls home. But equally important to me is that I believe my dad has accepted full responsibility for his actions and is prepared to accept the consequences of them. This, to me, speaks of his integrity.

I offer the following story for its context and not its possibility of being construed as an excuse for the choices that led to the situation with the utility bill delinquency. I have already stated that I believe it was handled in an inappropriate way. My sister is a recovering prescription-pill addict. This addiction led to her arrest and an inpatient rehab stint in Lexington with a subsequent halfway house situation followed by a job program that lasted a couple of years. The significance of this is my mom and dad were forced at that point to take in three children, two in high school and one barely even in kindergarten. Add in the fact that my sister needed support because of no income, you have a really tough situation for a person that never turned anybody in his family away for any reason, let alone a survival situation.

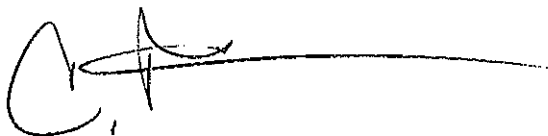
This financial challenge resulted in a situation where the water bill became delinquent and inappropriately believing that everything would simply work itself out. It was not a criminal enterprise but a very flawed attempt to prioritize. In retrospect, there's no denying that something else should have been done given the outcome. Again, I don't know if this information matters how the court will view what punishment my father deserves but it matters to me. In either case, everything I've written is true and verifiable.

I'm compelled to explain the relationship between my family and the Crace family who were also intimately linked to this case. To say that we are friends would be a gross understatement. The Crace family has been among our closest friends my entire life. Chet Crace and my sister are the same age and went to school together through high school. Chet's younger brother Walt is my age. Beyond school together, we were teammates on multiple sports and close friends the entire time. Our families travelled together and spent time together our entire lives as close friends. I would submit to you that in a town like Paintsville, you can count on one hand the total people with the ability to help you out of a financial jam with no strings attached. The Crace family was that family to the Porters.

Your Honor, I respect the weight of the decisions you must make and I do have faith in our criminal justice system. I'm not trying to retry the case in regard to the idea that something nefarious happened in that relationship even if I do believe that the people in question aren't capable of such behavior. I'm trying to say that there are things in court that weren't a matter of record that are a matter of fact. We love the Crace family and they love us. They know that if they were ever in the same very difficult financial situation and dad had the ability to help, dad would.

Thank you for taking the time to review my letter. I hope it helps provide context to the situation you are presented with. Suffice it to say that the judgement my dad exercised was poor—and now my family is presented with these consequences. I can speak unequivocally to the fact that this was poor judgement and not a criminal conspiracy. I do not excuse my father's judgement but do believe that the context warrants a lenient view of the appropriate punishment.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Todd Porter', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

C. Todd Porter

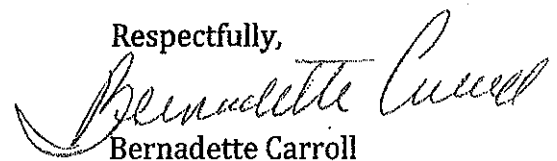
Dear Honorable Judge Reeves,

My name is Bernadette Carroll. I am a retired teacher from the Paintsville Independent School District. I am currently employed at Our Lady of the Mountain Catholic School. I have been associated with Mr. Bob Porter for more than 10 years. I feel that you need to know the good things about this man as opposed to all of the bad things you heard about this man during the trial in London. I hope you will see that the good outweighs the bad. About nine years ago our city started a summer program for kids. We began a swim program for all ages. Within that program we had a nutrition class, drug/alcohol program, and bullying program. Mr. Porter and his wife were always there to help and talk with the youth of our community.

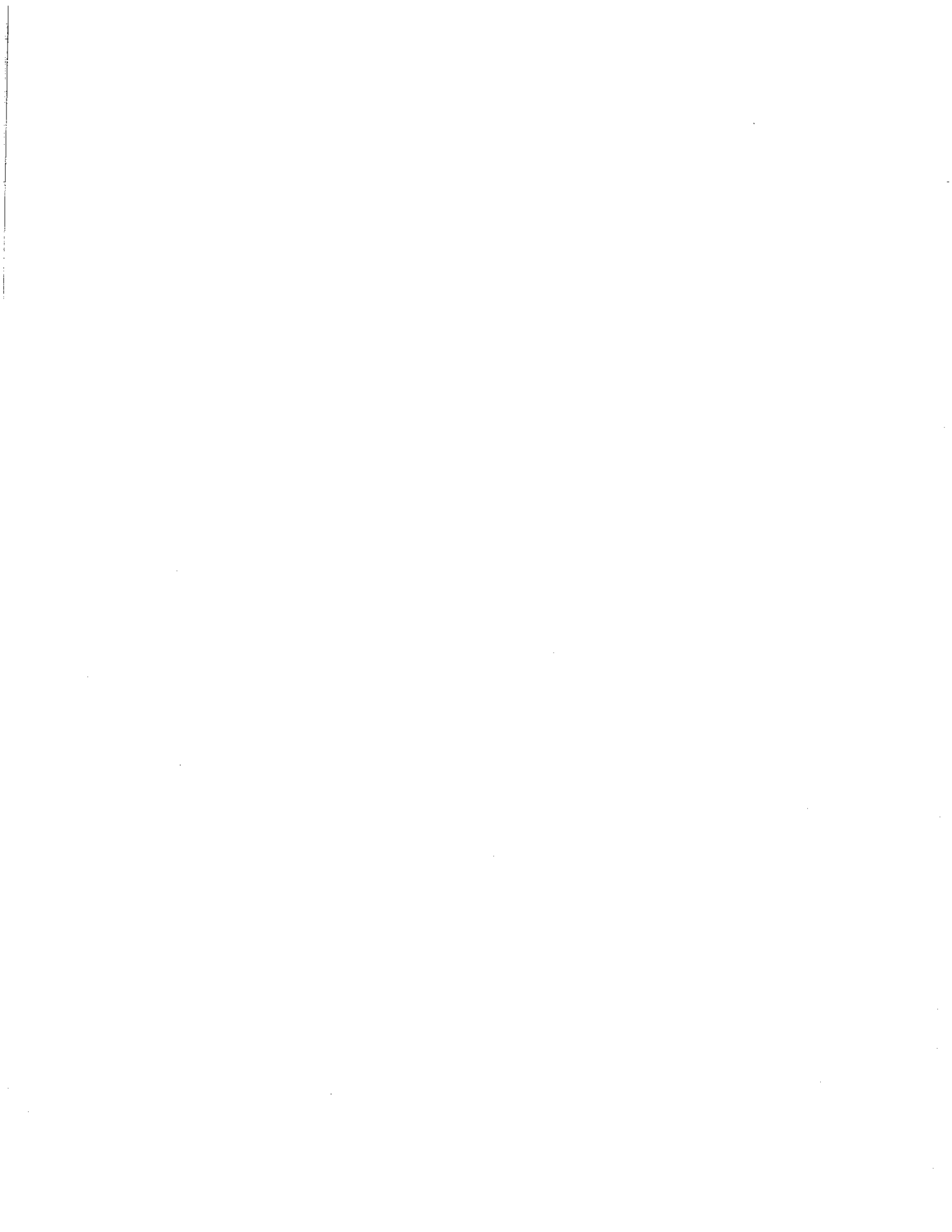
Furthermore, when our school district lost the 21st Century Grant he knew that the youth of Paintsville needed some type of program to help the students succeed. Therefore, Mr. Porter along with myself and two other teachers have created a great after school program at the Recreation Center. He knew how important this was because he is a Grandparent who raised his own daughter's children because she was struggling with addiction. I feel that Mr. Porter is a kind man with a big heart and his good qualities definitely outweigh the bad things you have heard.

The best part of Mr. Porter is that he always thinks of other people and children before himself. He is always asking us if there are any children that need food or clothing, or if there are children who are struggling with anything. I hope you take all of this into consideration and truly understand that he is a good person and deserves a second chance.

Respectfully,



Bernadette Carroll



To The Honorable Danny C. Reeves:

My name is Kathy W. Adams and I am writing on behalf of Mr. Bob Porter. I am an elected official and have represented our community as their county commissioner in District 1. I have worked with Mr. Porter in a professional environment while he was Mayor of Paintsville KY for 10 years. I have known him personally for 20+ years.

It is to my knowledge that Mr. Porter is currently facing legal allegations. It is my intention to provide statement that these allegations are not representative of his cumulative acts and contributions to his community nor are they representative of his tireless commitment and dedication to his professional responsibilities as mayor. They certainly are no indication of his true merit.

Even before he began his role as mayor in the city of Paintsville, Mr. Porter was a respected businessman and active participant in our community. He has a proven track record of dedication to our schools and families. I know from first hand experience that he is always willing to help others and he is one that genuinely cares for the people he serves.

Therefore, by presenting you with this letter, I speak on behalf of all of the good that Mr. Porter has been a part of and accomplished, not only as mayor, but also as a long term resident of Paintsville KY. May this be a testament on the behalf of Mr. Porter and held to light while considerations are being made regarding these current allegations.

With sincere intentions,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy W. Adams". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathy W. Adams

November 22, 2016

Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judge
US District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, KY 40507

RE: Robert Porter

Honorable Judge Reeves,

Having known Robert "Bob" Porter for more than 45 years, he is one of the most caring and humble men I have ever had the privilege to know. Bob loves and cares very much for our town, it's people and wants only to see it grow and prosper. Bob has always been a spokesman for children, Veterans, police and fire departments as well as all citizens.

Bob began the Veterans Telethon several years back to keep our Veterans (some who are up in age) from standing beside roadway with buckets to collect donations. This was done in order to keep the doors open on the Veterans Referral Center, which helps all Veterans with filing claims, having transportation for medical or to just have a person who understands them to talk with.

Bob has always been a huge supporter of the local schools, donating time at concessions, making sure traffic was directed to insure safety of all involved, cooking food for ballplayers/cheerleaders, and whatever else was needed.

Bob would go out of his way to lend a helping hand. I know of several occasions if a family needed a place to stay he would find them somewhere. He would go to motorists that may have run out of gas or broke down to render assistance. Most of this was done long after the office had closed for the day, many times in the wee hours of the night, never wanting to be recognized for any good deeds he had done.

When our community was devastated by a deadly tornado four years ago and again last year by deadly flooding, Bob was present entire time lending helping hand, making calls to get medical assistance, securing housing, hauling needed supplies and food. This was done not only inside the city limits but also in the out laying county areas. Bob did this not because he was the Mayor but only because of his deep love for our community, town and it's people.

Paintsville has never looked better, so clean, new street lights, walks and new businesses have opened up. The Historic Sipp Theater has re-opened after being closed for several years, showing movies and a venue for live plays. The Stafford House (oldest house in town) now has functions such as weddings, teas, showers. There is now an annual Pumpkin House which has a huge following bringing in extra revenue for both the town and local businesses. We also have a Spring Fling, Small Businesses Day, Christmas Parade among a few things that Bob has helped establish bringing in tourist and revenue.

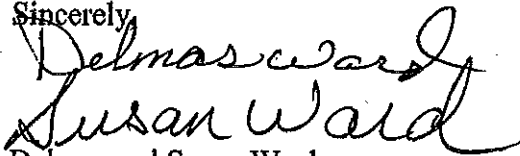
Pg. 2

Bob Porter has been a Sunday School teacher for many many years- he is a well respected and appreciated resident of our town.

When Bob was a loan officer in 1971 he took a chance on two 18 year old kids, giving them a home loan, of which we still live in 45 years later. Bob never fails to greet you with a pleasant smile and a kind word, being the most humble man ever. Bob loves his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren with his entire heart as they do him. He will be sorely missed by all that love and admire him.

Our town has lost it's heartbeat and shine without his presence and will be felt for many years to come. I pray that you will take into account when sentencing this man as to all the many good things that he has done for our town and all the many lives he has touched with his kindness and caring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delmas and Susan Ward". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Delmas and Susan Ward
36 N Buckingham Ave
West Van Lear, KY 41268

630 Washington Ave
Paintsville, Kentucky 41240-1040



McMasters Consulting, LLC

Mine Regulatory Advisor

Office: 606-793-3004
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November 11, 2016

The Honorable Danny C. Reeves
United States District Judges
U S District Court
101 Ban Street
Lexington, Ky. 40507

Dear Judge Reeves:

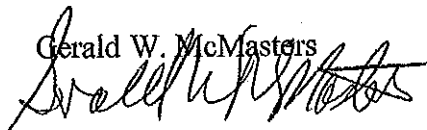
My name is Gerald W. McMasters. I am a 67 year old retired Federal Coal Mine Inspector/ Special Investigations Supervisor and a resident of the City of Paintsville, Kentucky I worked at the U. S. Department of Labor Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA) and retired after 40 years government service. Three of those years were with the U. S. Navy which included two tours of duty in Viet Nam. After retiring from MSHA, I started a small consulting firm in Paintsville, Ky. I work with the local mining community on Health and Safety issues.

The purpose of this letter is to address the situation in which my friend Mayor Robert (Bob) Porter finds himself. I have known Bob since he became mayor. Under his leadership the city has been revitalized. We have new lighting in the city, sidewalks, and the downtown is now alive again. I was shocked at the news of the problems which he now faces. Since Mayor Porter has been found guilty I will move on.

Your Honor, you hold the life of this old man in your hands. I hope and pray you will consider his age and his past public service as well as his future. I know he must be held accountable for what he has done. I do not ask you to turn a blind eye to the charges to which he was found guilty. I only ask that you explore an alternative method of punishment, possibly public service and probation. The sentence you impose will dictate whether or not he remains a productive member of society or waste away in prison. I don't believe he is a criminal, he made mistakes. I don't believe he would survive in prison. He is now 70 years old, and never been exposed to the likes of the prison environment. I hope and pray that your decision will be good for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Gerald W. McMasters



VETERANS REFERRAL CENTER

621 Euclid Avenue
Paintsville, KY 41240
(606)789-7587

October 27, 2016

Dear Judge Reeves,

We, members of the Veterans Referral Center Of Paintsville, respectfully ask that as you consider the case of Paintsville Mayor Bob Porter, That you will give consideration to all that he has done for the Veterans of this area. We are an independent Non-profit group of Veterans who maintain a Veterans center, to help the Veterans of this area and their dependents. We help them in getting earned benefits from the Veterans Administration. The benefits include health care, education, compensation for service connected health problems, pensions for Veterans and spouses and burial benefits. We provide all of our service at no cost to the people we help. We volunteer our time and resources. Our center depends on charitable donations to help pay expenses and to provide assistance to Veterans in need, we receive no government funds. Prior to the election of Mayor Porter ten years ago, we had no effective method for fund raising. At times we would stand in the intersections of streets, with buckets and beg for money to help keep our center open. We are all in our sixties and seventies, that was not easy or safe. Mayor Porter started a Veterans day telethon, to be held every year on or about Veterans day on Home Town TV, it starts with a dinner at the Community Center on Preston Street in Paintsville and the telethon last for four hours, with local entertainment and guest speakers. All of the money raised by the dinner and telethon is giving to our center. The telethon has been a great success and thanks to those annual donations we now have funds enough to make it through the year and are able to provide additional services and events to help Veterans and the community. All of the charitable work that we are now able to do, is the result of the unselfish dedication of Mayor Porter.

Respectfully,

John Daniels
John Daniels/Secretary

<i>Dennis Murphy</i>	<i>Robert [unclear]</i>
<i>Paul H. Howard</i>	<i>W. [unclear]</i>
<i>John Perry</i>	<i>Bobby Lane</i>
<i>Gae Snow</i>	<i>Leslie Spraden</i>
<i>Thomas Mullens</i>	<i>John Daniels</i>
<i>Roger Belcher</i>	<i>Jacky Darrell</i>
<i>Ronald Blair</i>	<i>Fred Nelson</i>
<i>[unclear]</i>	<i>Thurman Miller</i>
<i>[unclear]</i>	<i>Kenn DeBow</i>

Hon. Danny C. Reeves
United States District Court
101 Barr Street
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

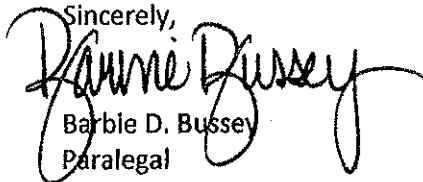
RE: ROBERT PORTER, 7:15-cr-00022

Dear Judge Reeves:

I am writing you in regard to Bob Porter. I have been a resident of Johnson County all of my life. Bob Porter is special to our community. He is the one person that you could always count on to help with events, whether setting up for events or cleaning up. He is a worker. He is always there for people. He was there for me like many others. He encouraged us, the younger generation of our community to become involved. He was always humble and appreciated all of the work that was done to help our town by the volunteers.

Bob is a wonderful grandfather to precious granddaughters who he has helped raise and who depend on him daily for encouragement. He treats every child of our community as his own. He is special to many people for many reasons.

Sincerely,


Barbie D. Bussey
Paralegal

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY
SOUTHERN DIVISION
PIKEVILLE**

CRIMINAL ACTION NO. 7:15-CR-22-DCR

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PLAINTIFF

V.

UNITED STATES' SENTENCING MEMORANDUM

ROBERT PORTER

DEFENDANT

* * * * *

The United States, through counsel, submits this memorandum regarding the sentencing of Defendant Robert Porter. In light of the fact there are no unresolved objections to the presentence report, the United States simply outlines its position on the appropriate sentence in light of the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

An incarcerated sentence within the guideline range is appropriate. The most relevant factors in this case are the “need for the sentence imposed . . . to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, . . . to provide just punishment for the offense . . . [and] to afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct.” 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2)(A) and (B).

The nature and circumstances of the offense reflect two kinds of official corruption that are all too common in this judicial district, especially in local government. The first involves the use of official authority to steer public business to friends and

cronies in exchange for monetary benefit and political support. The other involves what can best be described as a misguided sense of entitlement, where the public's resources are deemed by office holders to be available for their personal enjoyment-----unofficial perquisites of the office. Left unchallenged, this mindset can become part of the culture of a community and an office. Over time, and because "everyone does it", otherwise good people can adopt this sense of entitlement. That is why, when it is charged and proven, there need to be severe consequences.

No single event here, in isolation, seems outrageous. Undoubtedly, the Defendant rationalized his conduct. What's wrong with a free oil change here, a missed water bill there, a free UPS package now and then, especially when money is tight at home. How does it hurt the people I represent if I drive the seized Escalade? Why can't a mayor help an old buddy now and then by cutting corners on the bidding requirements? But it is the persistence, brazenness, and sheer volume of the Defendant's misconduct, in the face of repeated warnings and public complaints¹, that make this a very serious offense.

Many friends, relatives, and associates of the Defendant have written to the Court, pleading for leniency and describing his conduct as bad judgement or a mistake, but not criminal. They outline the Defendant's kindness, hard work, and generosity. They

¹ For example, the Court will recall testimony from the city's accountant that he warned the Defendant about the unpaid water bill at the time of successive annual audits, but the bill remained unpaid until a citizen obtained billing records with an Open Records request.

argue that the Defendant's good character, deeds, and charity far outweigh the mistakes he made in this case.

The United States acknowledges that the positive factors in the Defendant's background merits consideration by the Court in determining where, within the range, the sentence should fall. However, the Court should also consider that other citizens of Paintsville had divergent views of the Defendant's service and were the ones to bring to light to the Defendant's conduct. One citizen used the Open Records law to flush out the utility delinquency. A large group of citizens challenged the Mayor at a city council meeting. Jackie Miller saved questionable invoices. The Sheriff called the Kentucky Attorney General about a myriad of complaints about abuse of the Mayor's office. These complaints led to this investigation and prosecution. Those complainants wait to see if there are significant consequences for abuse of office.

In summary, despite the Defendant's otherwise law-abiding life and acts of charity, only an incarcerated sentence within the guideline range is adequate to address the seriousness of this offense and to send the proper message to other office holders who may buy into the culture of "everyone does it" or the belief that such conduct is no big deal.

Respectfully submitted,

KERRY B. HARVEY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On January 4, 2017, I electronically filed this notice through the ECF system, which will send notice of electronic filing to all parties of record.

s/ Kenneth R. Taylor
Assistant United States Attorney