

8/24/2017

Dear Honorable Judge Moody,

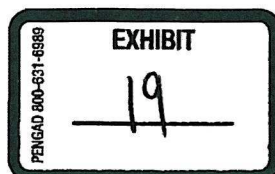
Due to all the threats by the Northwest Indiana Times and elected officials on social media, I fear for my family's safety, I am not able to add my name and address to this letter. Due to the nature of my work, I can not take the Times threats lightly and have my entire household become victims of evil bullying by the social media particularly the Northwest Indiana Times. However, I have always believed in John Bunich and know in my heart that nothing that was disclosed during his trial was of evil intent.

I have known John Bunich for over ten years and I remember when he inherited a major task to restore order within the Lake County Jail after being re-elected. Although he appeared overwhelmed, he remained confident that he could and would get the Lake County jail back into compliance while getting the inmates the help that they needed to become successful and productive citizens. I have never met a man in such a high-ranking position that cared so much about people.

Mr. Bunich has helped so many people. His loyalty, passion, perseverance and ambition has impacted the lives of many. I have had the pleasure of attending meetings and working along side him as a contractor within Lake County, Indiana. I have witnessed his integrity, fairness and his overall commitment to the citizens in Lake County, Indiana. Mr. Bunich has a heart of gold and is one of the best leaders within this region. I pray that mercy is sought on his behalf.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen

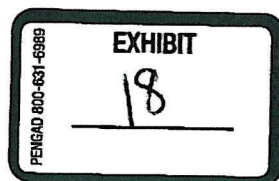


To the Honorable Judge Moody,

Hello, my name is Leon Leckavicius, I am writing on the behalf of John Buncich. This man is a very compassionate and fair person, he has done so much for Lake County in general with all the different activities he made for the youth and the different initiatives he created to keep our communities safe. John helped so many children who never got the chance to go camping with the opportunity to go camping in the summertime with his Camp Buncich. There have been many accounts when he gave many children different opportunities to better themselves or experiences to sporting events that they would never have the means to attend. He gave up his football tickets to my boys, so that they could cherish that moment of seeing a professional football team play. I've been knowing John for over 20 years and every promise he made, he surely kept and if he was not able to do it, he would let you know he couldn't. John is the type of person that will give people a chance when others won't or a second chance and not judge them for it. Honorable Judge Moody I ask you would take into consideration the things that he have done to better Lake County, John has helped me and a host of citizens of this great area of Northwest Indiana.

With Respect,

Leon Leckavicius
1938 White Oak
Whiting, IN, 46394

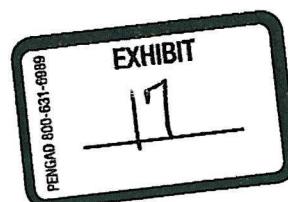


To the Honorable Judge Moody,

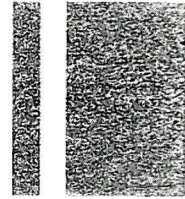
I am writing on the behalf of John Buncich, he has helped me in such a tremendous way throughout my years working at the Lake County Sheriff Department. He has been there for me at the lowest and most rewarding moments of my life. I was a victim of a horrific hit and run accident that claimed the life of one of my colleagues and injuring two others on March 6, 2012. An intoxicated person driving a Yukon at approximately 70 mph stroked me and my three colleagues while jogging around the Lake County Complex. This moment changed my life forever, I've suffered through depression and post-traumatic stress. I was out of work for about 11 months and out of school for two academic semesters, I never felt so useless and less than a man in my life but John Buncich was there to give me words of encouragement and moral support. He was not only there for me, he was there for my family, he made sure that I was taken care of. John Buncich countless of times came to visit me to celebrate all my accomplishments I made during his time as Sheriff; graduating with my bachelors, getting accepted to my master's program, being accepted to the City of Chicago fellowship program, and getting married. I respect him so much, even to this day for all the support he gave to me. John Buncich has been there for others as well, he visited another colleague dying from cancer. John brought a priest with him to give my colleague his last rights and the holy sacrament of the Eucharist. There are countless time John Buncich has helped people, giving housing to the homeless and the countless acts can keep going on and on. Honorable Judge Moody I ask that you use your fair judgment on John Buncich, if there were any discrepancies within the trial please take them into consideration. John Buncich has been a great public servant to the residents of Lake County, and a wonderful friend to most.

Respectfully,

Delano Scaife
9319 Renaissance Drive
Saint John, IN, 46373



Susan Grubnich
770 Morningside Court
Crown Point Indiana 46307
219.742.5536
Susgrubnich1@gmail.com



September 29, 2017

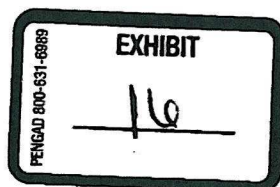
The Honorable Judge Moody,

I have known John Buncich over the last several years on a personal and professional level. He has shown kindness and respect to myself and family on every occasion. He has dedicated his life to serving the public in an honorable and intelligent fashion that has earned him the respect from myself, family and community.

Professionally, I have had the opportunity to serve Lake County representing a local medical supply company called MAC Medical. He was fair yet clearly considered the best circumstance for the medical department under his responsibility. This is the integrity he had shown in all aspects as the protector of our county.

Sincerely,

Susan Grubnich



September 29, 2017

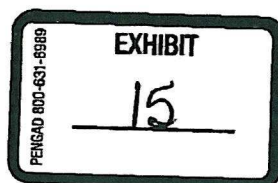
To the Honorable Judge Moody:

My name is Anthony Ford and I count it an honor and a privilege to write this letter of support on behalf of a man I proudly call my brother and my friend Mr. John Buncich. I have known John for over 5 years. I met him while employed by the Commissioners' Office as a custodian at the Government Center. What made John stand out to me was the fact that he was always pleasant, professional and polite. During my tenure as a custodian, my experience was that most County employees of his stature treated me and my coworkers like we were at best invisible. John was different he had a way of making everybody around him feel important and he always spoke, no matter who was in his company.

It was his down to earth demeanor and the prospect of a full-time job that inspired me to apply for a job with the Sheriff's Work Release Program. I applied several times before finally getting a call to come in for an interview. He remembered me, a part-time custodian with nothing to offer other than my service. My family and I still thank God for that to this day. It was this act of kindness that allowed me to see John's heart, his compassion and concern for people.

I saw the depth of John's humanity when the Work Release Program was abruptly terminated by the County Council and with it the jobs of over 28 men and women. John was out of town on vacation at the time the decision was made. We found out we were fired by reading it in the newspaper, which was extremely cold and callous. The County Council had no empathy or concern for us or our families but **JOHN DID!** When John found out about the closure, he tried to no avail to fight to save our jobs. He was told sh-- happens. I will never forget John called an emergency meeting on a Sunday when he arrived back in town. He was extremely angry that the Board did not take a second thought in taking the bread out of the mouths of so many families, with less than a 30-day notice, but **JOHN DID.** It was at this meeting that I saw again just how much John cared about the people in his administration. Through tears he told us he knew we were the bread winners in our families and that he knew we needed our jobs. He gave us applications to apply for Corrections Officers in the jail. Unfortunately, some were too old, sickly or overweight to pass the agility test. He didn't stop there, he found specialty jobs for those who qualified and some sadly had to retire. I thank God he didn't give up on us and he didn't rest until he knew we were alright.

I know John to be a friend in a time of trouble. I suffered a deep vein thrombosis (blood clot) in my leg in 2015. I met with John to inform him of my condition and I worried about the outcome. He saw that I was worried and told me not to worry, he would think about it and get back with me.



After about a week he informed me that there was a Front Desk position available where I could elevate my leg on my breaks to allow it to heal and relieve the pain. John came to the rescue again. He didn't have to look for another position for me but out of the goodness of his heart he did. The good thing about it is he didn't just look out for me but he had the same open door policy for all of his employees.

This is why I call John my brother, because he has proven himself to be an upstanding man of integrity. Over the years that I have known him, when he gives his word he keeps his word. I am not into politics and I have never purchased one campaign ticket. He never asked or insinuated that I needed to for him to help me. John has renewed my faith in politics.

In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. "...no lie can live forever". God will exonerate my brother and restore his good name, honor and dignity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony C. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "A" and "F".

Anthony C. Ford
Corrections Officer
7715 Forest Avenue
Gary, Indiana 46403

SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

THE HONORABLE JUDGE JAMES MOODY:

I BEGAN MY CAREER AS A LAKE COUNTY POLICE OFFICER IN 1976. JOHN BUNCICH, BECAME MY SGT., IN 1978, HE WAS ALWAYS A FAIR SUPERVISOR THAT EARNED THE RESPECT OF EVERYONE HE WORKED WITH.

WHEN JOHN BUNCICH, RAN FOR THE POSITION OF SHERIFF FOR LAKE COUNTY, I WAS AMONG HIS STRONGEST SUPPORTERS ALL FOUR TERMS.

IT IS MY SINCERE PRAYER THAT THE SAME FAIRNESS WOULD BE GIVEN TO HIM THAT HE HAS GIVEN TO OTHERS.

I RETIRED WITH THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT FROM THE LAKE COUNTY POLICE DEPT. IN 2007.

I WILL REMAIN IN PRAYER FOR ALL INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER.

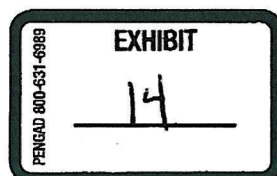
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



FRED SLOAN

2063 MCKINLEY STREET

GARY, INDIANA 46404-3016



Jorge A. Benavente, OD, MBA
9619 Greenwood Ave.
Munster, In 46321

Judge Moody
5400 Federal Plaza
Suite 4100
Hammond, Indiana 46320

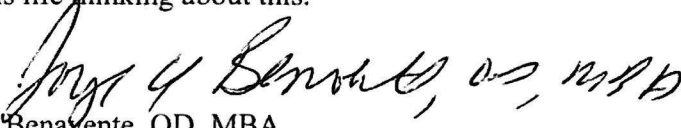
Judge Moody,

I am writing you regarding John Buncich, whom I have known personally and professionally for 24 years. John has committed a mistake and for this mistake he will pay for the rest of his life. Please take into consideration his life time of contributions to the enforcement of the law and the community of Lake County.

In my personal interaction with John he has always be kind and considerate to me and my family. He has been a loyal friend ever since I met him. He remained my friend even after some disagreements. I couldn't ask for a better friend. John has been an example of a law enforcement officer and has conducted himself as such. I have witnessed him being generous with his time and participation to the Hispanic community of Northwest Indiana. He has contributed much in helping these organizations with their activities. He has helped many other organization in this county. He came to my office to collect jackets for veterans to improve the life of veterans in need.

Professionally, he has been a patient since 2000. My staff look forward to his visits because he is very considerate and treats them with respect. I have treated John and we have a trusted relationship as patient and doctor. John has been honest and fair in his dealing with my office.

I am asking for leniency for John in your sentencing and to take into consideration his years of contribution to law enforcement and the communities of Lake County, Indiana. He will live the rest of his life thinking about this.


Jorge A. Benavente, OD, MBA



Sept 26 2017

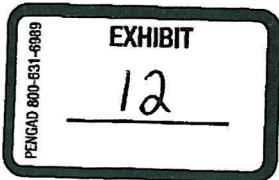
THE Honorable Judge Moody:

My name is Rev. Stephen Kosinski, a retired Catholic priest of Gary and chaplain for the Lake County Sheriff Department. I am requesting leniency for John Buncich.

As a priest, I worked at St. Ann in Black Oak, in Gary. The Church + Rectory were robbed, and a young girl, Haily Finch was shot + killed as a result of a drive-by shooting 2 blocks from the Church. John was more available than the Gary police to help us with our tragic and shocking issues of the area.

For many years, I heard confessions in Polish, English + Spanish hoping to lead people to change / repentance in Christ (i.e. attrition and / or contrition)

Considering the jury's verdict, and in spite of it, I like many know we were well served by John's service. Please consider his age + service in his sentencing



Sincerely

Rev. Stephen Kosinski

Jeffery A Kumorek

7600 Oak Ave.

Gary, IN 46403

September 21, 2017

Honorable Judge Moody

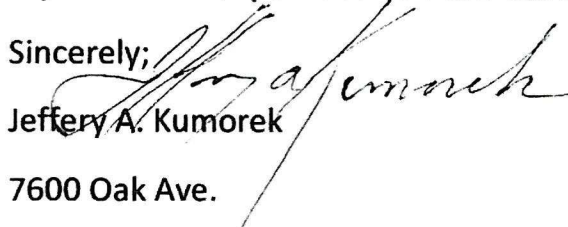
Dear Sir, I am writing in the hope that you will consider John Buncich years of public service when he faces sentencing. I first met Sheriff Buncich in 1998 when I was selected as the Executive Director of The Partnership for A Drug Free Lake County. He along with prosecutor Bernie Carter were the honorary chairs of this organization. He devoted countless hours to this organization which provided funding to three groups, criminal justice, education and treatment. The organization which was struggling when I came on board could not have survived without his efforts.

My relationship with him continued when I was appointed Deputy Chief and later Police Chief of the City of Gary. I worked closely with him on matters such as closing the Gary City Jail and transferring our inmates to the Lake County Jail. He was extremely helpful in providing support from the Lake County Sheriff's Department to assist in dealing with crime in the City of Gary.

I was later appointed by then Sheriff Buncich to be the new Lake County Jail Administrator. A new position to deal with federal mandates in a consent decree. I saw him in action daily working to improve conditions in a jail which had sunk to unacceptable levels under a previous administration.

I ask you sincerely to consider this request which I do not make lightly as I cherish my honor and reputation as a law enforcement professional.

Sincerely;


Jeffery A. Kumorek

7600 Oak Ave.

Gary, IN 46403

219-938-1765

