

October 6, 2007

Honorable Judge John Sedwick
United States District Court
222 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Re: Tom Anderson Sentencing Hearing

Judge Sedwick:

I respectfully address the Court and seek your indulgence to submit, for the record, my testimonial through this correspondence in support of Tom Anderson. Tom and I have known each other since 1997, when I met him through his father Tom Sr., a fellow Rotarian. I am a friend to the Anderson family, and to Tom and his wife Lesil, and children.

In recognition of your very important role in the judicial process, it is my hope that you will consider Tom's dedication to his community as a volunteer, public servant and advocate as you craft a fair sentence. As a former intelligence officer in the United States Air Force, I can attest to how important character and integrity are to accomplish the mission. As a former public servant, I recognize the inherent nature between special interests and doing what is ethical. Sometimes, absent statutory direction, or archaic laws, these lines are blurred.

Tom Anderson and I served on the Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors and Anchorage School Board together. I also supported his first election and re-election to the State House in Muldoon. He was our family's state representative for four years, and I worked with him while I served on the Northeast Community Council Board. In that time he was responsive, attentive, and showed care in his representation whether dealing with the vandalism at Susitna Elementary, or the obtrusive snow mound three stories high across from our neighborhood, or when it came to securing much needed funding for a traffic calming study on Muldoon Road and added revenue to spark the ribbon-breaking for the Creekside Town Center

construction. From supporting the military Stryker Brigade Base fence to enhancing park and urban design in Muldoon, Tom was our champion.

What most impressed me was Tom's good heart. We made a pact in our joint School Board campaign not to go negative against our opponents, whom attacked us every opportunity. We remained positive, and stuck to the issues. Tom showed his true colors in that campaign, and his legislative campaigns, always taking the "high ground" and maintaining respect. That's rare, in today's elections.

As a legislator, Tom Anderson got the job done. He'll talk your ear off, and laugh and smile throughout. He may make a joke, or two or three. He can't seem to sit still. But at the end of the day, without exception, my friend Tom was as dedicated and loyal to his constituents, Alaskans and the flag we pledge allegiance to, as a responsible legislator and people's representative should be. He leaves a fruitful legacy of accomplishment in our community, a true Muldooner.

I urge you, Judge Sedwick, when sentencing a man who has given most of his life to public service, to consider the many good, competent and productive acts he has done and accomplished. Tom deserves a chance at redemption, and chance to atone for the error of his ways. But his few improper acts don't comprise the entire man. I hope, to that end, you use your authority to reduce his sentence.

A heightened sentence may generate media coverage; may attract more letters and blogs and radio talk show calls; but I doubt it will be much of a deterrent to others, and I don't know if it will be commensurate with his crime. Tom Anderson made a mistake. Please weigh his actions against the indelibility of a severe punishment.

Thank you for your service to our citizens. You're a good judge.

With sincerest respect,


John Floyd