

October 1, 2007

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

Re: Anderson Sentencing

Dear Judge Sedwick,

This is a difficult letter to submit because the subject matter involves a friend of mine, and former colleague, and fellow Alaskan.

In the matter of Tom Anderson, and his prospective sentencing, I have a few thoughts I'd like to share with you. Whether you have made up your mind or not in determining Tom's punishment, I hope you will consider my comments and the spirit in which they are conveyed.

Tom and I met in 1999 when we both were appointed to and served on the Zoning Board of Examiners & Appeals. He had just finished law school and was already eager to serve the city. In that capacity, I saw a young man who was thoughtful, caring and aggressive in his beliefs. Tom and I were often in the minority on ZBEA rulings because we embraced individual rights and gave much latitude to petitioners seeking variances. I bonded with Tom because of his character and integrity exuded in the deliberations. We worked hard for our community and were rewarded by helping neighbors resolve problems.

I suppose, at the end of the day, that is what public service is all about, helping one another. And to that end, I never saw Tom abuse his position, speak or act callously with his power as a board member, or act inappropriate in any way. We took our position very seriously. No different than Tom did as a legislator.

Today, Tom faces a very different circumstance in which a jury of his peers has convicted him of wrong doing. I attended the trial. I commend you on your professionalism and detail as the presiding

judge. In its entirety, however, I was disappointed that the jury never saw, met, or truly heard from the "real" Tom Anderson. The warm, kind hearted, funny, talkative, mile-a-minute friend with whom I have worked, debated, and joined in solidarity for community enhancement and advocacy. I felt the true nature of Tom was never captured.

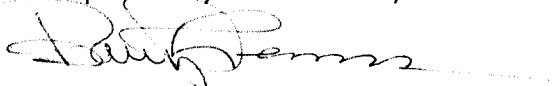
I hope and urge you to consider that there is person behind a trial, not just an audio, or bank statement, or awkward gesture caught on video. Tom Anderson is a good man, who has contributed far more, and provided benefit to our state and city in excess, of any harm or wrong doing alleged by the prosecutors and decided upon by a jury.

It's hard not to compare Tom's case to others, locally and nationally, and because I know him personally, I fear he floated into the "perfect storm" of investigations and targets, and may become an "example" to others through your punishment imposed. I implore you to think long and hard, as you have a reputation to do based on your passed rulings and thoughtfulness, to consider all aspects, nuances and factors regarding Tom's circumstance and ultimate plight.

Tom faces a punishment, no doubt. I pray, however, that you will give him the same mercy and understanding that he afforded his fellow Alaskans when serving on the Zoning Appeals Board, and as a member of the Municipal Light & Power Commission, and Parking Authority, and Anchorage School Board.

Tom has been a dedicated public servant all of his adult life and may have fallen off track, but he should be measured by the whole of his contributions and accomplishments, not just based on the unfortunate events that beset him, in large part, through a Government construct.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Barry D. Shennum