

21 October 2007

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

Re: William Bobrick, Case # 3:07-cr-00062-JWS

Dear Judge Sedwick,

I met Bill Bobrick over twenty years ago when he was Executive Director of the Alaska Democratic Party. I had just moved to Anchorage from Juneau and as a politically active Democrat in 1984, I was able to observe Bill in his leadership role as head of the party before we became friends. I remember thinking that he had a great job working to elect citizen legislators to further the values we both held about Alaska and its future. His enthusiasm for the job was obvious as he worked far beyond a normal 40 hour work week and his friendly, helpful and caring way with people was exemplified by Bill always taking time to talk with anyone who wanted a bit of his attention. Bill is dedicated to making this planet a better place to live and from the very beginning these traits defined him as we became better friends and worked together in several non-profit organizations.

It is the juxtaposition of my 20 plus year friendship and working relationship with Bill that his recent transgressions and confession of illegal activities involving conspiracy to commit extortion and bribery is perplexing. While it is clear he did these things, it is completely contrary to the man I know and the man I expect to continue working to make Alaska a healthy and safe place to live.

I learned of Bill's illegal transgressions when he told me, in person, that he'd made a terrible mistake and I would soon read about it in the newspaper. He was visibly remorseful and distressed that he had allowed himself to do these things. He told me he was going to fess up to what he did because it was the only honest and honorable thing to do and he was going to have to make restitution for his actions. I remember being stunned at what he told me. It is so out of character.

As in any small town, once you meet someone whose values are similar to yours, your paths will soon cross again. In 1985/86 Bill was Board Chair of the Alaska Health Project during the time I was helping organize Alaska Community Share. The Health Project was going through a leadership transition as one Executive Director left and another hired, so in my role as one of Community Share's organizers, Bill became a principal contact for the Health Project. He was enthusiastic about the possibilities of a new workplace giving option for Alaskan workers and he helped us gain access to workplaces where we could provide an alternative workplace giving option. His volunteer assistance helped Community Share in its first years and now that

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organization supports 44 Alaska-based non-profit; social, educational, health, arts, youth, senior and environmental related organizations. The Alaska Health Project, under Bill's volunteer leadership, was one of the founding five organizations.

I've worked my entire career in Alaska in the environmental and public lands arena – working for non-profit organizations and for the state of Alaska. In my role as Program and Finance Director of the Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF), I worked with both the boards and staff of Anchorage-based organizations and became familiar with the organizational culture of many of these groups. While I was at ACF, Bill served on the boards of both Trustees for Alaska and the Alaska Center for the Environment. Both require more than a passing dedication to board service. These boards meet regularly, are actively engaged in the selection and determination of issues and programs, and are responsible for raising funds. His active participation on these boards comes from his concern for and dedication to making Alaska a healthy place to live. Bill's recognition with the Mayor's Pollution Prevention Award further exemplifies this dedication. And I'm certain his commitment to a healthy environment, and working with those organizations seeking the same, will not wane with time. On the contrary, I expect Bill to continue working with the non-profit sector both as a volunteer and as a possible choice for employment.

Bill served as the Board Chair of Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) and in that role he recruited me to be the guest auctioneer for the annual STAR auction. Bill was a driving force behind STAR and I observed an improved success in those auctions over the five years that I served as the auctioneer. Bill was Board Chair during that time and his leadership made STAR a stronger organization. And there can be no doubt about the importance of the work that STAR does to make Anchorage safe for women nor the contribution it makes to women in need of STAR's services.

But most of all, Bill is a friend of mine. He is a giving, caring and compassionate person who made a stupid mistake. We all make mistakes and the important thing is what we do with that experience. He is talking of going back into the non-profit sector to provide leadership to an organization that is working to make Anchorage and Alaska both safe and healthy. If there is any way to allow him to continue living in Anchorage under home confinement so he can provide his organizing and leadership skills to a local non-profit organization rather than sending him off to a prison facility somewhere, I think that would be much better for the community. Strong, caring and competent leaders are needed in today's non-profit world and it would be a shame to deny Bill's leadership because of his one stupid mistake.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and comments.

Sincerely,



Jim Stratton
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