



LAS VEGAS' FAVORITE CHARITY

Foundation Board

David L. Adams
Mark A. Bell
Ray M. Berman
Mark S. Berman
John C. Berman
John C. Berman

Board of Directors

John A. Bell
John C. Berman
John C. Berman

Executive Board

John A. Bell
John C. Berman
John C. Berman

Advisory Board

John A. Bell
John C. Berman
John C. Berman

Honorary Board

John A. Bell
John C. Berman
John C. Berman

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May 16, 2017

The Honorable P. Kevin Castel
United States District Judge
Southern District of New York
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Unites States Courthouse
500 Pearl Street
New York, New York 10007

Dear Judge Castel,

I am writing you today regarding the case of Bill Walters. I can only imagine how difficult it is to make decisions that effect the lives of individuals, their families, and their communities. I hope that this letter will help you.

I have known Bill Walters for nearly twenty years. We met at an Opportunity Village fundraising event. Opportunity Village serves people with intellectual disabilities. At the time, I was a newspaper executive and Bill a successful developer. We immediately made a connection. I later found out that Bill had a profoundly disabled son. I have a disabled daughter. I have always recognized a particular orientation of the heart among parents of children with disabilities. A patience and caring for those less fortunate.

Over the years I have watched Bill touring Opportunity Village, always taking the time to talk with disabled clients and share a smile and a hug with them, but with a dignity and humanity that speaks volumes to the man within. Today if Bill walked into the work center at Opportunity Village there would be an audible screech for joy. An old friend has come to visit. That's the man I know.

A few years ago my newspaper was sold by its owners. After thirty-five years of distinguished service, I was an unemployed newspaper publisher. I had kids in college, our daughter to care for, and I would have to move from Las Vegas for another publisher job. I was devastated. One of the first people that called me was Bill Walters. He talked about my service to the community and the roots I had in town. He planted the seed that would become my new job. Now I am the CEO at Opportunity Village thanks in no small part to Bill. We are serving over 2,000 clients and families in Southern Nevada and will soon start residential care. I owe Bill a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Bill Walters is a complicated man. I suppose like most people. He has an uncanny ability to connect with people in all walks of life. We held a fundraising dinner for Opportunity Village a few years back. It was the most successful in the history of Las Vegas. The honorees were Bill and Susan Walters. We had celebrities, billionaires and millionaires, sports figures and models. But it was the outpouring of love from the clients and families,

the valet and caddy staff members, the other non-profit leaders in town, the linen vendors and retail store owners, the clergy and medical doctors; all had a story about how Bill and Susan had made a difference in their lives. People in Las Vegas still talk about that night.

I hope in some way this letter communicates the importance of Bill Walters to so many in the Las Vegas community. I pray that the scales of justice feel the weight of the positive impact that a man's life can make on other people. I can recount dozens of stories when Bill has secretly given aid. From the poor single mom whose son was shot in a gang shooting that Bill paid the funeral for, to the Opportunity Village campus that bears his and Susan's name that serves hundreds of people. Bill Walters is indeed a complicated man. But he has also done so much extraordinary good. I could go out today and find a hundred people that would serve thirty days in jail for Bill. I would be the first in line. That is the Bill Walters I know.

Please consider these things in all your deliberations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Brown', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bob Brown
President & CEO