

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CRIMINAL DIVISION

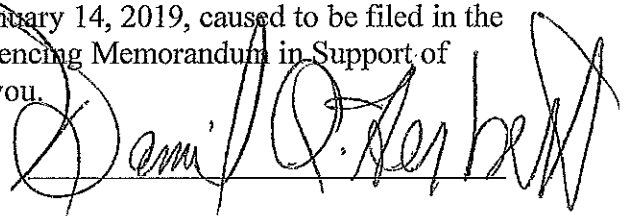
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, )  
)  
Plaintiff, )  
)  
v. )  
)  
JASON VAN DYKE, )  
)  
Defendant. )

No. 17 CR 4286

NOTICE OF FILING

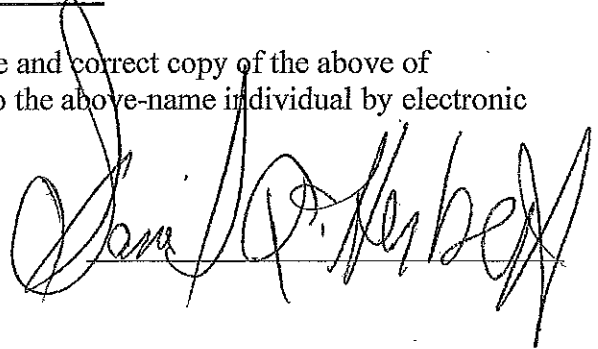
TO: Special Prosecutor Joseph McMahon  
Kane County State's Attorney Office and Special Prosecutor  
Office of the Kane County State's Attorney  
Kane County Judicial Center  
37 W 777 Route 38, Suite 300  
St. Charles, IL 60175  
Tel: 630-232-3500

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned has on January 14, 2019, caused to be filed in the Office of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, Sentencing Memorandum in Support of Mitigation, a copy of which is attached and served upon you.



PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that he served a true and correct copy of the above of Sentencing Memorandum in Support of Mitigation to the above-name individual by electronic mail on January 14, 2019.



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**SENTENCING MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MITIGATION**

Now comes the defendant, Jason Van Dyke, by and through his attorneys, who present the following sentencing memorandum in support of mitigation, and states as follows:

The Illinois Constitution requires that “[a]ll penalties shall be determined both according to the seriousness of the offense and with the objective of restoring the offender to useful citizenship.” Ill. Const. 1970, art. I, § 11. This provision mandates that every sentence take into account the objective of restoring the offender to useful citizenship requires not only that a trial judge acknowledge the mitigating factors in pronouncing a sentence, but that the sentence reflect that the judge acted on those as an objective of that sentence. *People v. Gibbs*, 49 Ill. App. 3d 644, 648, 364 N.E.2d 491 (1st Dist. 1977). Section 5-5-3.1(a) of the Unified Code of Corrections lists various factors that “shall be accorded weight in favor of withholding or minimizing a sentence of imprisonment.” 730 ILCS 5/5-3.1(a). The language of Section 5-5-3.1(a) is mandatory and a sentencing court “may not refuse to consider relevant evidence presented in mitigation.” *People v. Calhoun*, 404 Ill.App.3d 362, 386 (2010) (quoting *People v. Heinz*, 391 Ill.App.3d 854, 865 (2009)).

In enacting the Second-Degree Murder Statute and setting penalties for its violation, the Illinois legislature recognized that a range of circumstances might arise that could result in a

defendant being convicted of Second-degree Murder. As a result, the legislature classified it as a Class 1 offense, carrying a penitentiary sentencing range of 4-20 years. The legislature also determined that a person convicted of Second-Degree Murder could receive a sentence of Probation or Conditional Discharge. 720 ILCS 5/9-2 and 730 ILCS 5/5-5-3(c)(2). *See also People v. Daly*, 2014 IL App (4th) 140624 (No. 4-14-0624, 12/1/14) (holding that the Unified Code creates a presumption in favor of probation and section 5-6-1(a) of the Unified Code requires a sentence of probation unless the court finds a prison sentence is necessary for the protection of the public or if probation would deprecate the seriousness of the offender's conduct).

If this Court sentences him on the offense of Second-Degree Murder, Jason should be sentenced to a period of probation. If this Court sentences Jason on the aggravated battery counts, this Court should impose the minimum statutory term of imprisonment required. Jason's background, history, and character support these requests. Jason is presently 40 years old and married with two daughters. He has no criminal record of any kind and he has a good educational, professional and employment background. See Exhibit 1, summary of awards. These factors are all "proper considerations in the assessment of the penalty to be imposed in a criminal case." *People v. Cannon*, 49 Ill.2d 162, 167 (1971). Additionally, a substantial number of statutory factors in mitigation support a term of probation or the minimum sentence required:

1. Jason acted under a strong provocation. 730 ILCS 5/5-5-3.1(a)(1).
2. There are substantial grounds tending to excuse or justify Jason's conduct, though failing to establish a defense *Id.* at (a)(2). Here, the jury found that Jason believed he acted in self-defense, but that his belief was unreasonable. Although the jury decided Jason acted unreasonably, Mr. McDonald is not blameless in the incident. His PCP-

fueled crime spree included a number of offenses, some forcible felonies, such as burglary, attempt murder, aggravated assault and criminal damage to state supported property. Mr. McDonald set everything in motion on October 20, 2014 as he attempted to flee from a lawful arrest for those offenses and repeatedly refused to comply with lawful police commands to drop the knife.

3. Jason's criminal conduct was induced or facilitated by Mr. McDonald. *Id.* at (a)(3). Jason did not instigate this incident, he merely responded to a call for help. As state above, Mr. McDonald's own conduct set this incident in motion.
4. Jason has no criminal activity and has led a law-abiding life. *Id.* at (a)(4).
5. Jason's offense was the result of circumstances that will not recur. *Id.* at (a)(5). Jason no longer is a police officer and he will never serve in any law enforcement capacity as a result of this matter.
6. Jason's character and attitude indicate that he is unlikely to commit another crime. *Id.* at (a)(5).
7. Jason is particularly likely to comply with the terms of a period of probation. *Id.* at (a)(6).
8. The imprisonment of Jason would entail excessive hardship on his family. *Id.* at (a)(7).

Jason enjoys the support of members of the community, as evidenced by letters of support, attached hereto as Group Exhibit 2. Group Exhibit 2 consists of letters submitted on Jason's behalf, asking for leniency, many from writers Jason does not personally know. These letters demonstrate the strong community support for Jason. It also consists of letters written by Jason's family, friends, coworkers and neighbors. These letters provide some of the most

humanizing accounts of Jason and serve as a reminder that Jason is a loving father, husband, son, and friend. The following excerpts come from letters submitted by Jason's family on his behalf:

1. "The day of his verdict not only was my heart ripped out of my chest, but he wouldn't be there for my seventeenth birthday which made me fall into a depression... I want you to get to know the real Jason Van Dyke. I know who he really is and not what the public has portrayed him to be as well as the media or any news source. The last time I hugged my dad or gave him a kiss goodbye was on October 5, 2018. Now I touch his hand through a piece of dirty glass and speak through a phone where the connection breaks in and out [of]... I have no appetite, I do not sleep at night due to nightmares and crying because I wonder if my dad has pillows or blankets or has eaten before going to bed. I do not have the energy to do homework see the friends I have or enjoy the sports I was in. If I do sleep it is because I cry myself to sleep wondering why this world is backwards. My dad is like any other regular man out there in this world, but one billion times better. He is my hero, my shoulder to cry on, my mentor... waking up knowing he isn't here or when he will come home kills me... it's time to bring my dad home. It's time for him to see my sister graduate eighth grade and watch me graduate high school. It's time for him to hug and kiss his wife and protect his family. Bring my dad home. Please. Stop the crying and the pain and give my dad leniency...Bring him home."
2. "My husband knew the life of a police officer wasn't going to be an easy one, but he was up for the challenge, he wanted to make a difference. He was one of a select few Chicago Police Officers chosen to work for former President Barak Obama's inaugural security detail when he won his second term. Jason is a very kind, gentle, soft-spoken man. He is compassionate, considerate and courageous. My family has suffered more than I can even put into words. My daughters had their father ripped away from them to possibly ever be able to hold each other again. My children do not sleep or eat right. They feel guilty when they are bullied at school and he cannot come to their rescue. I have been left to tend to two children on my own. I want to be able to hold my husband, kiss him goodnight and grow old together. There are no words to express such a feeling of loss I have. My husband was convicted by the court of public opinion a long time ago, way before the trial. We're afraid to give anyone our name, our daughters have endured more pain than any child should ever have to face. My husband hasn't been able to get a good job nor will he ever in the future. Jason will never be a police officer again. Not only Jason, but all of us, have been punished enough. Please find it in your heart to consider the punishment already endured by him that will continue for the rest of his life. There was no malice, ill intent, or hatred on that fateful night when my husband was faced with the split second decision. He believed he was making the right choice that night."
3. "I am twelve years old and I know about what is happening to my dad. I have been bullied at school about what happened. Kids come up to me and say that my dad is a murderer. That hurts so much when people say that to me. I have had nightmares and trouble sleeping because my dad might have to go away for a long time. I can't concentrate at school because of what is happening to him. My dad loves me and my sister and mom and is a kind person. I love my dad more than words can say. I do not want my dad to go away

for doing his job. We have already been affected so much. My dad used to love to go out in public with me and my sister and after this happened he doesn't come out with us much. If he does he is always changing how he looks so that no one can recognize him so that we do not get hurt because people do not like what he did. My dad would never let anything happen to us. He takes me to my dance classes and basketball games. We go to church together and pray together. We like to help Sister Maria Paulina in our church. My dad is my everything I want him to see me grow up and do well in school and make him proud. My dad and my family are really hurting and I think that we have hurt enough. I beg of you to think of my sister and I when you make your decision. I need my dad in my life."

4. "Jason is not the person that was described by the prosecutor...Jason was chosen to join the TRU UNIT of the Chicago police department, was one of the officers that went to Washington DC to represent Chicago on the security detail for President Obama's second term, and also sent to bomb school in New Mexico. I don't believe you go this far in the police department on luck, one must have an understanding of the values of a good policeman. As I stand behind my son, as my father stood behind me, as his father stood behind him, as your parents stood behind you, I hope you find some compassion in this case."
5. "Jason is a family man who loves and adores his family. His pride in his daughter's shines as he listens to them recount their day. Nothing makes him happier. He is a believer in God, in truth, in justice. I think about this every moment of every day. My joy suffers, but I know my son. He is a good man with a good heart."
6. "Jason played a big role in serving his community and strived to make Chicago a safer place for everyone. Now, he's lost almost everything he worked so hard to obtain in the blink of an eye. I ask you to consider everything he has lost...my brother is now a convicted felon. I ask you to grant him probation. If Jason goes to prison it will have a tragic outcome for his immediate family, who will lose everything they have. Jason has lost family, friends and co-workers...he avoids going out in public, and worries about his wife and kids' safety."
7. "Jason is not a trigger-happy cop that people like to call him. He had to walk into the court everyday with people shouting at him calling him horrible names and wearing a bulletproof vest. He did not once respond to all the protesters who were there to harass him. Jason is the bravest man I will ever know. I hope you understand that Jason is the kind of person around whom people rally...please let that be a factor in your decision."
8. "I truly believe that Jason has suffered extensively for his actions. He has lost credibility in the public eye. A heavy sentence will serve as a tremendous hardship for his wife who will bear the responsibility of raising two children by herself. I ask for leniency because of the significant difficulties that will be faced by his family, who themselves are blameless in this tragedy."
9. "Jason lived his private life a very kind and loving person. Always compassionate, polite and completely supportive of others. One event that should give you a window on what

kind of a man Jason really is was when President Obama was pursuing his second inauguration and Jason was selected to be a part of the police security detail. As Jason continues his debt to society, please remember that he still has a tremendous character of selfless service to his community and strong potential to quickly return as a productive member upon return.”

10. “Not long after the indictment, we brought Christmas gifts for the family and found Jason alone with the girls baking cookies. A harsh sentence for Jason will punish not only him but his entire family. Jason has suffered over the past four years shedding many tears. Jason has lost his career and reputation. He is not a threat to society. We as the court to consider probation or electronic monitoring so that the girls may be spared further punishment. We are so proud to be Jason’s cousins.”
11. “We sincerely hope that you will see fit to suspend his sentence or at the very least suspend the 16 counts of aggravated battery.”
12. “Police officers are constantly being tested and pushed to limits that would be beyond the average citizens abilities to stay calm and focused. As an officer, Jason has continually received commendations for exemplary service. Jason didn’t act out of malice; he was only acting out of duty. I ask that you consider his record of service and the past conduct of Officer Van Dyke. His career is over, at least let him get back to his family and on with his life. I ask that his sentence be probation and time served.”

The following excerpts come from letters written by members of the Chicago police department who did not personally know Jason:

13. “Please find it in your heart to show mercy on our fellow brother in blue...I’ve been in several OIS, (officer involved shootings) I sympathize with Officer Van Dyke. I feel for his children and his wife. I respectfully ask you Sir, to simply have mercy.”
14. “I have never met Jason, but being a Chicago Police Officer, I do know how hard this job can be. It is horribly difficult to make split second decisions for the safety of yourself and your sisters and brothers in blue. Please look upon Jason with a kind heart.”
15. “I am requesting leniency for Jason Van Dyke...Please be lenient in the sentencing.”
16. “Please remember the stress and everyday experience he lived through. He is not Col. Kurtz or the racist killer made out in the media. See the man for who he is and what he tried to do to protect the city.”
17. “This letter is in regard to Jason Van Dyke. I am asking the court to please consider Jason’s family and his commitment to the City of Chicago and keeping its citizens safe. Please show mercy.”

18. "Please consider leniency for Officer Jason Van Dyke. Things look much different when you walk in the shoes of a policeman."
19. "In this day of all the violence on the streets, it's hard to know what to do. I don't think the policeman went to work that day with malice intent. It's a tough job and I know because I've been a Chicago cop for 30 years before I retired. Please have some mercy for him and his family."
20. "I watched the video through the lens of a veteran police officer and what I observed was a reactionary decision that erupted as the result of responding to hundreds of stressful and highly charged calls for service that an officer handles on a daily basis. This incident has changed the landscape of law enforcement across the country but we, as police officers, are human and have the same fears as many of the citizens we nobly serve. A bulletproof vest, loaded gun, badge and 6 months of training in the police academy do not make us impervious to the world in which we currently live in. Many have had the privilege to judge Jason Van Dykes actions with the benefit of hindsight from the comfort and safety of their home. This, in my opinion, is completely unfair. I am hoping you will be compassionate. This decision will not only have a profound effect on Jason Van Dyke and his family but with the future of law enforcement officers across the country."
21. "Our goals are not monetary but because of compassion for the innocent. We spend our careers in the most depressed areas of the city. We see the murder of children and the elderly, the decomposing bodies of the innocent, the rape and beating of innocent women and children, the sexual and physical abuse of the innocent child, the armed robberies of citizens who just try to make it through life. The destruction of life. The effects to the normal human being who observes these heinous acts are beyond repair. I ask that you show compassion for this officer in him doing the job he believed was right and justified according to the law."
22. "I do not believe he reported to roll call that evening with the enthusiasm to inflict serious injury or death. I'm certain the years since the incident, leading up to the verdict, have been tumultuous for him and his family."
23. "I've testified before you in the past and always found you to be a fair and honest judge. I hope you can forego public pressure and consider leniency."
24. "He has to live with what happened for the rest of his life, it is punishment enough. Please show mercy."
25. "He made a decision that all police officers fear, and it ultimately ruined his life."
26. "This was a situation that any police officer could face any day, unfortunately his decision has ruined his life, and the life of his family, which is truly unfair."
27. "As a fellow policeman and father of 3 children, I am asking that you use some compassion and be lenient in your sentencing of former Officer Jason Van Dyke."



28. "We would ask for leniency when sentencing our fellow brother in blue. I have 18 years on this great job and could honestly say that making decisions like the ones we do every day would leave most people standing still. Just try and remember that even good people can make decisions that result in a similar result."
29. "Please show mercy."
30. "This individual had to be taken out for the safety of all on the street that night. There have not been charges of OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT, in this and as such this matter calls for leniency in sentence. I pray that your heart will guide you in process of sentence."
31. "I know it is your responsibility to consider a fair sentence. Jason Van Dyke led a crime free life and chose to join the Chicago Police Department to protect others from criminals. His split second judgment on one night was deemed criminal. But if not for putting himself in between the public and the criminal element in our society he would not have been in the position to make that split second decision. I hope you realize the potential for him to lead a full and productive life with his family. I hope that you give him that opportunity."
32. "In my opinion Jason Van Dyke thought that the offender would comply with the verbal direction and at some point, was in fear of death or great bodily harm to himself or others."
33. "Any one of us could make a split second decision that might later be judged wrong."
34. "We all have to make instant decisions on this job. Anyone can be put in a life or death situation at any time."
35. "Many officers including the officers who observed McDonald with a knife refusing police orders did not take police action and attempted to justify it in court during their testimony. Officer Van Dyke followed his training which I went through. The fear for our freedom, our livelihoods and the fear of the effects on our families prevented the assisting officers from doing what was required by the law of our free country. Officer Van Dyke despite the fears of other police officers did what he believed was right in the eyes of the law. Officer Van Dyke believed he needed to act quickly in this situation that lasted what seems like a lifetime in a police officer's mind."

The following are excerpts from letters submitted on Jason's behalf, by members of the Chicago police department who personally know him:

36. "Society receives the police it seeks. God help the people."
37. "Jason has been vilified and demonized by the media and others. Jason maintained a wonderful disposition and positive outlook during an extremely difficult time in his life and it was an inspiration to all who met him. Jason spent many years faithfully serving the citizens of Chicago as a police officer. To devalue all of these years of police work based

on one incident would be a disservice to Officer Van Dyke and all of the countless people he helped throughout his career. Jason is a selfless person and a man of great faith. He and his family have received numerous threats of violence against them and he offered a feeling of safety and steadfastness to his children and wife. The action he has taken to provide for the financial and physical security for his family can only be described as herculean. His values exemplify a person who is worthy of the leniency of this court and sentencing that reflects his worth to his colleagues, friends, and most importantly, his family.

38. "Jason is a good man. The situation in front of you is life changing. Life changing for Jason Van Dyke and for his entire family. Only you have the ability to save what is left of this tightknit family. I ask for special consideration so that this man can get home to begin the process of putting together the shattered pieces of his life. There is so much rebuilding needed for the Van Dyke family.
39. "I have laughed and cried with Jason in the last four years. The man I know is not a racist, not a murderer and definitely is a good man. As Jason was taken into custody I watched his father standing there watching as tears rolled down his face. I thought that if Laquan McDonald had a man like that in his life what a difference it would have made. I ask you to take all the good he has done and factor in to your decision. May justice be tempered with mercy."
40. "I worked with Jason as a police officer. He was and is in my mind a good man and a good citizen. Not a mean bone in his body. Jason is a family man. Had a happy family atmosphere with his wife and 2 young daughters. That is now changed forever. I pray and am asking for leniency for this man. He's NOT a murderer. He made a decision; right/wrong but HE...was the only officer that evening that tried to do something. I pray you give Jason a fair sentence. Jason's wife and children and extended family and friends are victims too!! Jason should not have to pay a huge price because of misdeeds from other officers or other perceived issues the Chicago police department has."
41. "While working together Jason was dependable and good-natured. He was committed to help serve the citizens of Chicago to the best of his ability. I hope that the positive impact that Jason has had on his family, friends and community will be taken into consideration."
42. "I worked with Jason. I know the Jason that was a hard working patrolman who was an honest and straightforward type of man when dealing with the public. I know the Jason that would on occasion give part of his lunch to the homeless person or pay for an item at a local store for the kids waiting in line. I also know the family man that worked tirelessly at several jobs to provide for his family so Tiffany could be at home and raise the girls. Jason has led a crime free life and does not pose a threat to society. I know the Jason that went out every night and did his job and did it right. I hope that you can provide Jason with a speedy but fair sentencing."
43. "I had the pleasure of working with Jason when he was new on the job. He is no different than me. His is not a racist, nor is he a murderer. He is a regular guy who went to work to

provide for his family. The last time I saw Jason he was working as a janitor in the basement of the FOP while awaiting trial. I could see he was a beaten man. It looked as if he hadn't slept in months. He has served a very rough sentence already. This man will never be a police officer or carry a weapon again. I ask that you have mercy on Jason. The mantras of the police academy that were beat into our heads were 'shoot until the threat is eliminated' and 'better to be judged by 12 than carried by 6.' Let this man and his family find peace and attempt to reassemble their lives as best they can."

44. "I worked with Jason for three years. We worked in various high crime areas of the city and I observed him acting responsibly and professionally time and again. I know him as a hard working police officer, but more importantly a good husband and great father to his girls. I hope you can find it in your heart to remember his family when you decide his fate. He's a good man who had a bad encounter with an offender. His wife and daughters have suffered so much already, and they obviously weren't even there that night. Please give them the possibility of being a family again."
45. "I learned how important his family was to him and why he lived near his mother and father. Not once did I hear an unkind word spoken by Jason about anyone he encountered while working. He always seemed like a nice guy, not hardened like some officers I've met working the streets for many years. I believe Jason acted accordingly to the way he was trained, the way I trained other officers in use of force. There will be no benefit to society to send Jason to prison. Putting a policeman in prison for acting on how he was trained is not solving anything."
46. "I know Jason personally, sleepless nights, PTSD, missing family functions, changed forever is what this job does for you. We saved many lives without regard for ours. I ask you to be kind in sentencing Jason and have mercy on him and his family's pain."
47. "I ask for leniency be granted in Jason's case for Tiffany's well-being as I know she has struggled to provide for their two daughters."
48. "In a split second decision, all of their lives have been uprooted."
49. "Jason is a good man who was doing his job. Jason has two daughters that need him to be their father. Please have compassion for him during the sentencing. (First generation Irish, parents from Galway, Ireland. Member of St. Andrew's Parish for lifetime.)"
50. "I find him as a hardworking, honest, sincere family man, whom is God fearing, without prejudice."
51. "I am requesting leniency for Jason Van Dyke's sentencing. As his homeroom instructor he was very well mannered and considerate of others."
52. "I am not writing as a fellow officer, but as a close friend. It has been hard to watch your best friends suffer the way they have. But even though they were involved in the fight of their life, they were still there for my family. In 2016 our family home was in foreclosure and we had no idea where we were going to live. Without batting an eye, Jason told Tiffany

that he wanted to help. They immediately opened up their home to my family. We stayed with them until we found our own place to move into. THAT is the real Jason Van Dyke – caring, compassionate, and always willing to help those in need. There have been times that girls won't eat because they feel guilty eating a good meal because, as his oldest put it, 'How can I eat this when my dad is eating slop?' WE are fearful of the psychological effects this will have on these young girls. We ask that you show some of the care and compassion that Jason has shown to us and countless others in his life. Please be lenient in your sentencing of this good man and friend."

53. "Please impose only the minimum sentence upon Jason Van Dyke for a decision he made in seconds, without the benefit of hindsight. We believe Jason deserves a second chance to positively impact his family and our community."
54. "I wanted to let you know the kind of person Officer Van Dyke is. He is the person I want on my side, the person I want to be friends with, the person I depend on, the person I worked with and the person that kept me and my family safe for many years. My neighborhood became less safe the day Jason was charged with murder. When police officers are at work protecting the City of Chicago, their citizens and tourists, we expect our families and homes will be kept safe by our fellow Officers. Officer Jason Van Dyke was doing his job, protecting the neighborhood I live in and making it safe for citizens of Chicago and visitors to drive down our streets, exit the expressway, get a late night snack from Burger King or Dunkin Donuts and make it to their destination without a knife wielding assailant attacking them. It's a job where decisions have to be made, and made quickly because the safety of others DEPENDS on it. Jason followed the guidelines and training that was pounded into us by the Chicago Police Department Training Academy. I want you to know members of the Chicago Police Dept., retirees, police families and entire communities support Jason and his family. Please lessen the pain for his young daughters and show mercy."
55. "Jason was an asset to the Chicago Police Department for 15 years. He was always a professional in the handling of the citizens of the city of Chicago. I sincerely hope that you can grant Jason leniency in your sentencing."

The following are quotes from letters submitted on Jason's behalf by members of the community:

56. "Would you please consider the least severe sentence to PO Van Dyke the law will provide. He was on duty and it was not intentional. Consideration for family."
57. "Sir please give consideration to Van Dyke family when giving sentence."
58. "Please be lenient in your sentencing of PO Jason Van Dyke. Time served should be sufficient. Mr. Van Dyke made a mistake and has already paid dearly."

59. "Officer Van Dyke served the city with distinction before the tragic shooting of Laquan McDonald. Please show leniency."
60. "Please find it in your heart to have mercy on PO Van Dyke."
61. "I ask that you be lenient on the amount of time he will serve. This situation has an impact on his family."
62. "I feel that Officer Van Dyke was acting on behalf of my safety and the safety of the rest of the Chicago community. Please be lenient in sentencing Officer Van Dyke. Chicago needs police on the street who are willing to protect the citizens of Chicago at all costs. Even if it means putting their life on the line and losing everything."
63. "When considering the sentencing of Officer Jason Van Dyke, I ask you to think about the man behind this horrible situation, the family he still has to support, and the many lives he has touched along the way. Coming from a family with many officers in it, I ask that you take his entire career into consideration."
64. "Please show leniency at sentencing for this officer."
65. "Please let a great officer go."
66. "Please consider a lenient sentence in regards to Jason Van Dyke. Thank you."
67. "I am asking for leniency for Jason Van Dyke as a first responder and a citizen of Chicago. I can't imagine what it is like for our police officers every day. It is a thankless job and they deserve our support. I live in a strong police, fire, and union ward where we vote for those who support us. Thank you."
68. "Please take extenuating circumstances into consideration when sentencing Jason Van Dyke. There but for the grace of God – etc."
69. "I am asking for any consideration and leniency in the case of Jason Van Dyke."
70. "We live in a time where being a police officer is harder and harder to do. They put themselves out there for us in the line of fire and I believe we need to stand behind them. I can't imagine what it's like out there daily in this crazy world. I know many believe it was excessive, but Jason didn't go out there that day robbing or killing, he was protecting us!"
71. "A little bit of leniency would be appreciated in the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke."
72. "As a registered voter, I ask for your leniency for Jason Van Dyke."
73. "Please ask for leniency when considering a sentence for Jason Van Dyke."

74. "Please consider leniency for Jason Van Dyke."
75. "I do come from a police family and I know many people who come from many backgrounds and ethnic groups and they have all agreed that Jason is a good man. None of us were there that night and we cannot offer an educated guess as to what went through anyone's mind that fateful evening. But we do know that Jason is not the monster being portrayed by some. He is a dedicated family man and he is a respected man in his neighborhood in Garfield Ridge. Thank you for taking the time to consider all requests of leniency. We put our faith and trust in you."
76. "I am the wife of a retired Chicago policeman and the mom of a Chicago firefighter. Our son is a friend of Jason Van Dyke. I know Jason as a...man whose concerns have always centered around his home life...his wife and two daughters. I'm sure you're aware of the dangers and violence that confront our Chicago first responders nearly every day. I'm hoping you will consider those obstacles when sentencing Jason. I pray for him and you and all of us!"
77. "I see one problem that all political administrations....and churches ignore. The breakdown of the family...Who has to deal with the mess we have allowed him (McDonald) to grow up in? The schools and the police...these problems have been shoved off onto...teachers and the police...they are hired to teach and control...gangs. Parent's failures are now their burden. I do not see the elected keepers of government, the laws, and the purse strings, really doing anything about it. I have been watching for decades. Can you do something about it? Speak to the problem? Consider this dangerous swamp the teachers and police work in when sentencing Van Dyke. Will it be a better world if his children grow up fatherless?"
78. "I am asking for leniency for Jason Van Dye. He was a good police officer. It is one of the hardest jobs. Until someone walks in his shoes, they do not have the right to Judge. Please consider his wife and children."
79. "Please consider probation for Officer Jason Van Dyke. As tragic as it was, I do not believe Laquan McDonald's death was a murder."
80. "When a man loves his city, loves his family and loves his job, he protects on a daily basis. I do not believe he should spend time in jail. . . He has lost his job and is about to be torn from his family and his community unless you can find it in your heart to consider all of this and show him understanding and humaneness. He was and is a good man."
81. "A civilian does not understand what our men and women in Blue deal with believed was his job that he was taught to do. He felt threat and he acted upon it. Just because the other officers on the scene didn't act did not mean Officer Van Dyke was not in fear for his life. Take his job away, take his gun away, make him find a new profession to support his wife and children but to put him into prison for doing what he perceived was doing his job he was trained to do is a misuse of Justice. Do not punish him and his family after he got up day after day, put on his uniform and protected and served the city of Chicago with pride.

I beg you to let him go home to his wife and children and not punish him by putting him in the same prison as serial killers and 1<sup>st</sup> Degree premeditated murderers. It would be the right thing to do to show our officers that we support them rather than let them hang out to dry.”

82. “I appreciate the jury’s decision and respect it, but I am hoping for you to possibly show mercy not only for Mr. Van Dyke but also for his wife and two daughters. The girls desperately need their father as soon as you deem it appropriate. I respect your authoritative role.”
83. “He was doing what he was trained to do in a dangerous situation. He is there to protect and serve people such as myself.”
84. “I truly believe he was sincerely trying to do his job. I understand he was tried and found guilty. I only ask that you please take this into consideration and give him a lenient sentence.”
85. “Jason is a young man whose life is forever changed. I implore to your judgment and heart for leniency in sentencing.”
86. “Under the totality of the circumstances please consider an appropriate sentence. Thank you.”
87. “Please don’t play politics and be fair. Please show leniency.”
88. “He was protecting our citizens.”
89. “Officer Van Dyke was doing a hard job. Look at his career in total and his life in total. Be lenient in your decision please.”
90. “His wife and daughters have also felt the consequences of this verdict. With continuous threats to them, their schools, residence and other family members, it’s going to be a long painful road for all. We are simply asking for leniency and show him and his family some compassion.”
91. “Thank you for your service and commitment to uphold the law. I hope you can find mercy for Jason and his family in this hard time for Chicago and Chicago’s police.”
92. “I believe Officer Van Dyke was a political sacrificial lamb. Please show mercy on him in sentencing.”
93. “As a registered voter, taxpayer I would like to voice my opinion as to the sentencing. He was a police officer doing his job and I would like you to consider a light fair sentence.”
94. “Please use your heart and mind when giving officer Van Dyke his sentence. Take into consideration his wife and children.”

95. "Please consider the actions of a police officer on duty."
96. "Please use the same standard that is used with all accused with the same crimes in Cook County."
97. "Officers are people like all of us who make the most difficult decisions in a matter of seconds not knowing that it will alter their lives forever. God Bless You."
98. "I am begging you to show mercy and please consider his young family that need him at home."
99. "Jason is not a threat to anyone."
100. "I would ask you to consider all mitigating factors to exercise leniency, heart and good will towards a CPD officer who tried to protect the public and performed commendably prior to that unfortunate event."
101. "Chicago Police Officers have a tough job! We need them to keep our city safe. Officer Van Dyke is an angel for our city...he should be home with his family!"
102. "Jerry Farrell, M/315 1<sup>st</sup> Mar Div ICorps, Quang Nam Prov., Charlie Ridge, Arizona Territory, QueSon Mountain USMC 1970: "Van Dyke was afraid like me and you were. Please don't bury him."
103. "I am a voter, a civil servant and a human being. I am asking you to apply the same standards to Officer Jason Van Dyke as you would to any first-time offender that appears before you. It is within your purview to sentence this Officer to supervision on the count of Second Degree Murder, as the likelihood of recidivism is so remote. I have never seen a single act broken into so many pieces, even in such a politically ad radically motivated prosecution."
104. "I am sympathetic to the family of the man that was killed but I also believe this would have been avoided if he had listened and did what he was asked of him by the police."
105. "Offenders high on drugs, carrying weapons, and disobeying the police orders are a threat not only to the police but to the citizens of the city. We request you take all of this into consideration at sentencing and be as lenient as possible. It is always easy to second-guess an event that is over. There is only an instant when a policeman must make a decision or he may be the one lying dead in the street. We were residents of Chicago and due to increased crime, poor treatment of the police, and other reasons, we have relocated."
106. "The defendant was not out to harm or kill on the night of this tragic incident. He was trying to protect Chicagoans as he was trained, provide for his family, and return home to his family at the end of his shift."
107. "I truly believe the death of Laquan McDonald was a tragedy not a murder."



108. "We are all human and we do not know how we would react. We can say we would never do that, but we don't know."
109. "His duty that night was to remove a threat. He should not be sitting in a jail cell. If he must be punished, please take his job, his pension and his gun, but please do not take his freedom. If our police officers all stop serving and protecting us we are in big trouble. He is not a common criminal."
110. "When considering the sentence of Officer Jason Van Dyke, please be lenient. Jason is a good human being and was put into a terrible situation that he shouldn't have been in. His daughters need him now more than ever little girls need their father. God bless you and God bless the Van Dyke family."

The following quotes come from letters submitted on Jason's behalf from friends, neighbors, and members of his Church:

111. "In this sentencing case for Jason Van Dyke, I ask that you be lenient with the time he has to serve. Getting to know Jason these past few years has been a pleasure so I ask that you take his character into consideration when deciding his sentencing."
112. "I am the proud mother of two Chicago police officers as well as my husband, father-in-law and brother-in-law. I first met Jason when his ordeal began...as I got to know him better I saw what a good father and husband he was. He always talked about his girls and his wife...I have come to know Jason as a God fearing man with a heart of gold. We developed a friendship in which we brought him and Tiffany into our lives...he is always welcome in my home and my children's homes...when others turned their backs on Jason, I was lucky enough to find a good friend...Jason is a hard working police officer who went out every day to help the people of Chicago. He is a man of faith, a good father, husband and friend. I cannot find the right words to describe the wonderful and kind man that I have come to know and love as my friend. I am proud to say that Jason Van Dyke is my friend and has come into my life."
113. "I have worked with Jason for several months and know him to be a very kind, loving man. He is not a danger to society. I would hope that you would consider leniency in his sentencing process. Thank you for your consideration."
114. "Jason is a soft-spoken, committed family man who has always been considerate of others. Service to others is a fundamental element of Jason's character. I have concern for those who now may question their commitment to serve the communities I ask you for leniency in this case. God bless you and thank you for your consideration."
115. "Please consider leniency. His parents deserve to have their son home. His wife shouldn't have to raise their daughters without him. And his daughters need to have their dad at home to see all that they will accomplish through his guidance."

116. "I've asked God many times now to help me make sense of this. My friend went to work one day and it changed lives forever. I don't think there is a moment in the rest of Jason's life where he won't be reliving the tragedy of that evening. A life was lost, it's tragic. Jason has asked me to look out for his girls. This world is hard enough and we need men like Jason in it. Please show leniency on his sentencing."
117. "The person that was depicted during the trial I do not know, nor have I ever met, because that man does not exist. Jason is such a sweet and loving old soul. He is a man of integrity, strength, courage, honor and bravery. As he now sits confined in a cell as a broken man, he can only see his children and wife from behind a glass window. A man who was once the protector of his family is now unable to fulfill his lifetime role as a husband and a doting father. Jason has suffered, your honor. Given his decorated record, as well as his close ties to his family, friends and community, I write this letter pleading that you find it within your heart to impose a lesser sentence."
118. "Mr. Van Dyke is another father figure to me. He was always there to talk to me, even more than my own-blood father. I've witnessed how amazing of a job Mr. and Mrs. Van Dyke raised their two beautiful daughters. Given the circumstances he was under Jason Van Dyke is the strongest man I have ever met. I see him as the person that never gave up in his darkest times. I ask that you show leniency and let their suffering end as early as possible."
119. "I don't think it's my place to critique or offer an opinion on the trial, but I do know that Jason Van Dyke is a great man that finds himself in a position that is way outside of the character that I personally know. He is a man that has lived and played by the rules. He is a man that has much to contribute to society as a whole. It is my hopes that you can find it within your authority and compassion to render a sentence equal to that of a first-time offender."
120. "Jason has suffered a great deal already. Please show him mercy in your sentencing."
121. "Please send Mr. Van Dyke home to his family."
122. "If you had the pleasure to meet Jason and his family you would get to know the real side of his dynamite personality. I hope you show mercy on this great guy."
123. "Jason Van Dyke is a great man. He was the lamb that got slaughtered!!! 'Politics'"
124. "This conviction has sent a clear message to all law enforcement and all citizens in Chicago that crime will be tolerated."
125. "I am begging you to have mercy on Jason and send him home to his family."
126. "I know Jason to be a very kind, loving man. He is not a danger to society."

127. "When considering the sentencing, I ask you to think about the man behind this horrible situation, the family he still has to support, and the many lives he has touched along the way. I ask that you take his entire career into consideration."
128. "Jason is a strong family man that would give you the shirt off his back, he would go beyond and above to help a person in need. Please take into account the number of years he served our great city diligently and with honor."
129. "Please keep Jason Van Dyke with his family. Please consider that a man's character is stronger and counts for more than one action."
130. "Jason will continue to pay for what happened that night; for the rest of his life. Nothing will change that. I pray you take into consideration the lives of his family when you administer sentence, for they are innocent victims. Much of their future is in your hands as well, a heavy burden to be sure."
131. "I have known Jason for over 30 years. I know Jason must have been truly scared for his life for him to justify taking the life of another human being."
132. "Jason has truly taught me what it means to have strength and poise in times of trouble. No matter what has been going on in the case, he has still been the same caring, compassionate, and loving father, husband and friend to all."
133. "Jason would come into my coffee shop and we would have conversations about what we can do for the children in the neighborhood. Please think of his children, they really need him in their life. Don't let him miss out on the important times in his kids' life."
134. "Jason is a good honest person that kept to himself and never caused problems. He always seemed more interested in helping people. I know that this is a terrible thing that happened but I do think that Jason would never do anything to harm a person unless he felt his life was in jeopardy. We never know what we would do in a situation. If Jason failed, then the system that trained him failed. I am just another citizen but I don't understand how a police officer doing his job to protect others can go to jail."
135. "I ask that you demonstrate judicial courage and be merciful in sentencing Jason. He is a good man, not an evil man. Jason became Mayor Emmanuel's sacrificial lamb when he ordered Chicago to pay the McDonald family five million dollars."
136. "Our officers are constantly put into situations that are highly dangerous and they have to make choices that are life changing in a matter of mere seconds, few would want to walk in their shoes. Please take into consideration the strenuous situations and find some kind of balance."
137. "Jason is a God fearing man with a heart of gold. When others turned their backs on Jason, I was lucky enough to find a good friend. I am proud to say that Jason Van Dyke is my friend."

138. "I'm sure you're aware of the dangers and violence that confront our Chicago first responders nearly every day. I'm hoping you will consider those obstacles when sentencing Jason."
139. "I pray that Jason may continue to be ever present in his young daughters' lives. Jason poses no threat to anyone. The world is a better place with him in it. I'm not one to stand out in public and carry signs, raise my voice, block any roads, disrupt anyone else's lives, but I would love to have my voice be heard. I implore you to see the real Jason Van Dyke and decide on an appropriate sentence for this good man"
140. "I have known Jason for over 20 years. He has always worked hard for the protection for citizens and never been given a thank you. Policemen/Firefighters protect us daily yet are not given the respect they deserve. Please don't take him away from his family. I am requesting as a human being to another please...."
141. "Jason is not the monster being portrayed by some. Thank you for taking the time to consider all requests of leniency. We put our faith and trust in you."
142. "Jason is definitely not a murderer. He is nothing more than a gentle giant. Please, I beg of you, do not leave his wife and children without a husband and father."
143. "Jason is not a danger to society, he is not an evil criminal. He is kind, he is loved, he is good."
144. "Please consider my voice through this letter as it might not be protesting through the streets of Chicago shutting streets down but I feel JUST AS STRONG! Jason was just trying to do his job as a Chicago police officer to keep the streets safe. He wouldn't have ever been put in that position if he wasn't a police officer."
145. "Please put yourself in a police officer's shoes and knows what they have to deal with on the job. You have a very tough job as well. Jason's kids and wife need him."
146. "The man behind the badge is a rather shy (almost introverted) man with a large heart and a kind soul. I ask that you please show leniency on his sentencing."
147. "Jason never missed any recital or school function that was important to his girls. He needs to be around not only to protect and care for his daughters, but to show them what kind of men they should allow in their own lives as they get older. I ask that you strongly consider the absolute minimum sentence so that we can be one step closer to bringing Jason home, where he's meant to be with his wife and girls."
148. "I see how Jason's family suffers each day due to the absence of him in their daily lives."
149. "I'm a former police officer and retired military. I have met a lot of people in my life, some good, some bad. Jason is one of the nicest people I have ever met. Everyday these

men and women go out and run towards danger when everyone else is running away. They are spit on, harassed, threatened and shot at. But, when these people need help, they always call the police and the police respond like loyal soldiers. The pressures of the job and split decisions can go either way. Don't let a split second decision in battle define how you think about Jason. I'm not trying to diminish the life of Laquan McDonald in any way. His life was precious and I'm sure Jason would have wanted a different ending."

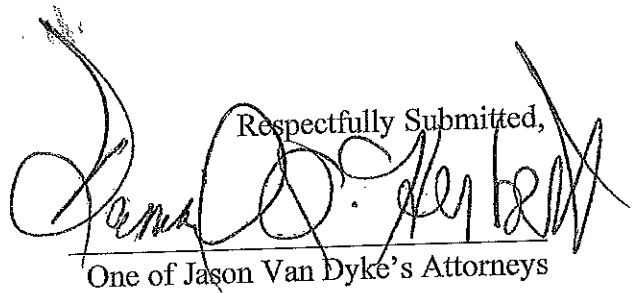
150. "I am a former United States Marine having served in Vietnam with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. I am also a retired Chicago Police Officer. Jason is an honorable and loyal person. His demeanor to everyone was of full respect. I found him to be a true gentleman. I respectfully request that you take into consideration the above and consider to be lenient at the time of sentencing."
151. "I have known Jason and Tiffany for 14 years. During this time I have seen Jason as a kind, quiet, polite and concerned man. He has helped me many times in the winter with the snow and ice. I am 80 years old and it's very appreciated. All of my experiences with this fine man have been positive. I write this letter to let you know that I am proud to be Jason's neighbor. Please help Jason and his family."
152. "Jason is a wonderful neighbor and friend and also is a dedicated family man. Please help Jason and his family for they have always helped my husband and me."
153. "I know Jason to be a loving father, husband and great friend. He has made a huge impact on my life as well as his own family. He is such a great person to be around and he is so goofy and funny. Due to the verdict, Jason cannot even hold his own daughter's hands. I ask that you take heed in your decision and ask you for leniency when deciding the final outcome."
154. "I beg you to please look into your heart and keep his sentence to prison to as little as possible. He is a good person a Christian. He loves his family. His daughters need a father. I have known him for over 20 years. He has always worked hard for the protection of citizens and never been given a thank you for protecting them. Policemen/firefighters protect us daily yet are not given the respect they deserve...please don't take him away from his family...I am requesting as a human being to another please."
155. "I am writing to you to ask that you consider leniency when deciding the fate of my friend Jason Van Dyke...I have only known a hardworking, humble, gentle, funny, kind man...we share a mutual love of the Catholic faith. Jason and his family live that faith on a daily basis...I think we both consider our faith to be one of the greatest gifts in our lives. Jason is a wonderful husband to Tiffany. I have seen the mutual respect between them and unwavering commitment to each other... Jason is always a wonderful father to his girls...He is present in their lives, proud of them, loves them and is doing a wonderful job raising very smart, hardworking daughters. I pray that he may continue to be ever present in his young daughters' lives. Jason poses no threat to anyone. The world is a better place with him working in it. I am not one to stand out somewhere in public and carry signs, raise my voice, block any roads, disrupt anyone else's lives, but I would love to have my

- voice be heard... I implore you to see the real Jason Van Dyke and decide on an appropriate sentence for this good man.”
156. “I ask that you take heed in your decision and ask you for leniency when deciding the final outcome.”
  157. “Even when he worked nights he would drag his tired, weary body to church on Sundays for our football/cheerleader mass as he always wanted to be there for his girls, supporting them in every way. There aren’t many fathers who would endure an all night shift and then go immediately to watch his girls cheering for the football team. Jason however is one of them. The police will no longer put themselves at risk for fear of prosecution and jail. Criminals should adhere to orders to drop a weapon.”
  158. “Police officers are now afraid to do their jobs for fear of prosecution.”
  159. “Jason is an exceptional husband, father, and friend. He has now been taken away from his loved ones. I only ask that you consider leniency when deciding this outcome.”
  160. “That fateful night changed the lives of two families forever. This case has affected many people but none more than his family, especially his girls. These girls have been robbed of a normal childhood, they are under constant scrutiny because of something they are not responsible for. Research tells us that traumatic events affect every part of a child that experiences it, it changes their brains, effects them physiologically ad even affects them at a cellular level. They are changed forever. They have had death threats made against them, bullied and threats of their house being burned down. They have endured heartache that no child should ever have to feel. I beg you to spare these two young girls, please consider them in your decision.”
  161. “Jason is one of the most supporting and strong men in my life and I am so grateful that I can look to him as my second father.”
  162. “Jason could not be the excellent father and husband that he is if he made decisions based on hatred or malice. In spite of the sad result of one of Jason’s actions, I feel that his actions always were done with the desire to protect – to protect his community, to protect his fellow officers, and lastly, to protect himself. I would urge you to take into consideration the character of this fine young man when sentencing him.”
  163. “Jason has touched so many lives. His absence truly has a detrimental effect on his children who miss him and need him in their lives.”
  164. “My friend Jason has always been an extremely hard worker, he has even taken extra jobs to support his family. We have spent countless family outings together. As I sit here writing this choking up, I ask you to be as lenient as possible for Jason and his family.”
  165. “He is known as the quiet gentle giant. He is the father of two girls and they are the apple of his eye. He is very kind, loving and patient with the girls. He has been a respected

policeman. I am not sure how one continues to put themselves in harm's way to protect others, as Jason has done this."

166. "Jason has been a wonderful influence on our children. With a heavy heart we write this letter to you, but please know that Jason Van Dyke is a compassionate, respectful, intelligent, and responsible man. Please be empathetic in your decision."

WHEREFORE, for the forgoing reasons, Defendant Jason Van Dyke, respectfully requests that this Court enter a penalty of probation if sentenced on the second degree murder offense, or in the alternative, the statutory minimum term of imprisonment, if this Court sentences Jason on the aggravated battery counts.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
One of Jason Van Dyke's Attorneys

Dated: January 14, 2018  
Daniel Q. Herbert  
The Herbert Law Firm  
206 S. Jefferson, Suite 100  
312-655-7660  
Dan.herbert@danherbertlaw.com

# EXHIBIT 1



Report Date: 20 Mar 2015  
 Report Time: 1413 Hrs

Information Services Division  
 Data Warehouse  
 Produced by: PCOU227

# Chicago Police Department

## Personnel Division

\*Only for active personnel



### Complimentary History

VANDYKE, JASON, ID	916	9265	008	75	4884
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### Achievements

DEPARTMENT COMMENDATION AWARD	1
2009 GERMER RECEPTION AWARD	1
UNIT MERIT FOR BEST PERFORMANCE AWARD	1
APPENDANCE RECOGNITION AWARD	2
NATO SUMMIT SERVICE AWARD	1
COMMITMENT AWARD LETTER	4
EMBLEM OF RECOGNITION - PHYSICAL FITNESS	2
2009 CRIME REDUCTION RIBBON	1
PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION DEPARTMENT AWARD 2008	1
HONORABLE MENTION	1

Total No.

1  
 1  
 1  
 2  
 1  
 4  
 2  
 1  
 1  
 1  
 39  
 53

JM015696

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Joint Operations Award**

*Awarded to*

**Police Officer Jason Van Dyke #9465**

For your outstanding effort and participation in a joint operation/event, which significantly contributed to the overall success of the operation, bringing credit to the Department.

Philip J. Cline  
Superintendent of Police

# 06-124  
Operation "Safe Summer"

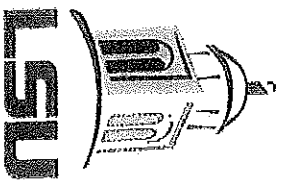
# CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING

Awarded to

**Jason D Van Dyke**



in recognition for successful completion of the  
National Center for Biomedical Research & Training  
Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education Course



**Prevention & Deterrence of Terrorist Acts by Law Enforcement  
Awareness Level**

*issued on October 20, 2006*



Sandra Webb, Director, Training Division  
Office of Grants and Training  
Preparedness Directorate

**8 Contact Hours**



Thomas A. Tucker, Director  
National Center for Biomedical  
Research and Training

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*presents this*

Department Commendation Award

to

Police Officer Jason Van Dyke #9465  
Targeted Response Unit

*For outstanding achievements requiring performance above and beyond  
normal expectations of this member's obligation to duty.*

*October 2008*

DATE

06-006

*Michael A. Shields*  
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT  
BUREAU OF STRATEGIC DEPLOYMENT

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Attendance Recognition Award

PRESENTED TO

*Police Officer Jason D. Van Dyke*

*In appreciation for outstanding service given to the Chicago Police Department.*

*Your dedication and exemplary attendance is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated by the Department.*

01 September 2006 to 31 August 2009

DATE



*J. Alvarez*  
SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE



Crime Reduction 2004  
Chicago Police Crime Reduction



Crime Reduction 2009  
Crime Reduction 2009 Ribbon



Presidential Election  
Deployment



Attendance Recognition Medal  
Chicago Police Attendance  
Recognition Medal

Ribbons Jason Van Dyke has been presented with while employed with the Chicago Police Department.

# Center for Domestic Preparedness



## FFHMA

This is to certify that

**Jason D. Van Dyke**

successfully completed the

Threat Hazard Recognition and

Emergency Actions Training for CBRNE Incidents

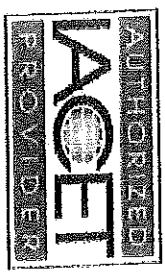
Chicago, IL

*(0.80 Continuing Education Units/8 Contact Hours)*

Issued this 8th day of March, 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Christopher T. Jones,  
Superintendent  
Center for Domestic Preparedness



# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Honorable Mention

PRESENTED TO . . . .

OFFICER JASON VAN DYKE #9465

FOR . . . .

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY  
Action taken and recorded under R.D. #HH-326192

Officers Feeney and Van Dyke responded to a call of a battery in progress at 3601 S. Hermitage St. Upon arrival the officers saw two people wrestling. As the officers broke up the fight, they learned that one of the subjects had committed a burglary and the other was the brother of the victim. The offender still had in his possession three Playstation 2 D.V.D. games which were part of the property that was stolen during the burglary. Due to the officers follow-up investigation a residential burglary was arrested and charged accordingly.



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Terry G. Hillard, Superintendent of Police

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

*J. Killackey*  
John Killackey  
Commander, 009<sup>th</sup> District

# AWARD



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

OFFICER JASON VAN DYKE #9465

FOR . . . .

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Actions taken and recorded under R.D. #HH-360776, and indicated below

On 09 MAY 02, the second floor of 5058 S. Marshfield was burglarized. The officers were able to work some leads that resulted in the resident of the first floor apartment, of the same address, becoming a suspect. The officers questioned that person who stated that his friend pried open the rear window of the apartment then both of them went in the apartment and stole several items. The offender was placed into custody and charged with residential burglary. Armed with the information on the second offender, the officers next went to his house, placed him into custody and transported him to the 009 District for processing where the charge of residential burglary was approved.

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

*John Killackey*  
John Killackey  
Commander, 009 District



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Terry G. Hillard, Superintendent of Police

AWARD

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Honorable Mention

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Police Officer Jason Van Dyke, Star # 9465**  
TRAFFIC DETAIL

FOR . . . .

**The Arrest of one offender for Burglary**

On 06 September 2002, at approximately 1800 hrs., and while assigned to a traffic detail, you and Officer Walsh #17218, observed a person, now known as the victim, chasing an offender down Michigan Avenue. The victim was screaming for help and informed you that he had just been robbed. After a brief struggle, you were able to subdue the offender and placed him in secure custody. The property taken was returned to it's rightful owner.

This subject was placed under arrest, taken to the 001<sup>st</sup> District and subsequently charged with Burglary. A name check later revealed this subject to be a notorious criminal, arrested on numerous occasions in the past using many different identities.

Due to your quick response and keen observations a habitual and dangerous offender has been taken off the streets.  
Congratulations and Thanks for a job well done. RD# HH 630538

By: Thomas G. Byrne  
Deputy Chief  
Central Control Group



*Thomas G. Byrne*  
Thomas G. Byrne  
Deputy Chief of Patrol

Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Terry G. Hillard, Superintendent of Police

# AWARD

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honorable Mention

PRESENTED TO . . . .

OFFICER Jason Van Dyke, #9465

FOR . . . .

U.U.W.

For actions taken and recorded under RD HJ-619748

P.O.'s Van Dyke and T. Norris, while assigned to Bt. 933, observed offender (Clark, Stephen A.) driving without headlights. After stopping the offender at 4837 S. Racine, the offender exited his vehicle and began walking away from it. The offender was stopped and could not produce a drivers license. After placing the offender into custody, Bt. 933 conducted a custodial search of the vehicle and discovered a .22 caliber revolver loaded with 6 live rounds under the front passenger seat. The offender was advised of his rights and transported into the 009<sup>th</sup> district for processing and was charges with felony U.U.W.

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!

*John Killackey*  
John Killackey  
Commander, 009<sup>th</sup> District



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Terry G. Millard, Superintendent of Police

AWARD

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

*Police Officer Jason Van Dyke #9465  
009<sup>th</sup> District*

FOR . . . .

*Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle  
RD #49 486460*

On 12 July 2003, Officers Everado Bracamontes, Joann Locullo and Jason Van Dyke were detailed to the Area 1 Saturation Team. While on directed patrol, Officer Bracamontes observed a suspicious vehicle entering a parking lot at 64<sup>th</sup> and Ashland with the trunk lock punched out. The Officer's suspicions were confirmed when a computer inquiry revealed that the vehicle had been reported stolen. Officers Bracamontes immediately requested additional units with Officers Joann Locullo and Jason Van Dyke responding. The Officers performed a vehicle stop and were able to place the driver into custody without incident. Further investigation revealed that the steering column had been damaged. The offender was transported to the 007<sup>th</sup> District where he was charged accordingly!

Your name was submitted for the Honorable Mention by Sergeant Charles D. Lambery to mark your dedication to duty. Due to your keen observation skills and outstanding teamwork, a vehicle was returned to the rightful owner and an offender charged with the crime.

*Thanks you for a job well done!*



*Walter A. Green*  
Walter A. Green  
Commander 002<sup>nd</sup> District

Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Terry G. Hillard, Superintendent of Police

AWARD

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**OFFICER Jason Van Dyke, #9465**

FOR . . . .

**1<sup>ST</sup> DEGREE MURDER**

**For actions taken and recorded under RD HJ-599755**

On 03 September 2003, Officers Norris, Sullivan, Van Dyke and Davis were assigned to assist Area 5 Detective Bt. 5598, in looking for a murder suspect at 4842 S. Justine. The crime occurred in the 017<sup>th</sup> district at 4815 N. Kedvale on 31 August 2003. Due to the officers professionalism and knowledge, the above offender was apprehended. The offender was relocated to Area 5 Detective Division, where the offender was charged with 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder.

**THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!**

*John Killackey*  
**John Killackey**  
**Commander, 009<sup>th</sup> District**



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Terry G. Hillard, Superintendent of Police

**AWARD**

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Officer Jason Van Dyke # 9465  
Targeted Response Unit**

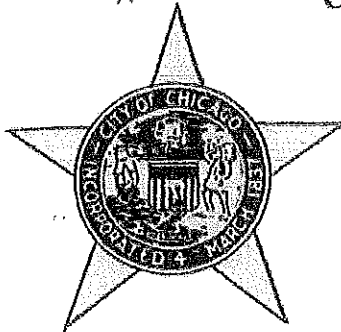
FOR . . . .

**Unlawful Possession of a Handgun  
HJ - 279060**

On 3 April 2004, you and Officers Cynthia Contreras, Juan Hernandez, Gabriella Wurm, and Bradley Nielsen were working a Targeted Response mission in the 007 District to combat gang related shootings. After seeing a vehicle commit a traffic violation, you curbed the vehicle. While approaching the vehicle you observed the driver reach under his seat. With officer safety in mind you immediately removed the driver from the vehicle and recovered a .45 Caliber Semi-Automatic handgun loaded with 7 hollow- point rounds. A second occupant of the vehicle was also arrested after he was found to be in possession of Cannabis. A criminal history check of the weapons violator revealed that he was a violent convicted felon.

Due to your keen observations and dedication to duty, a repeat violent offender and a handgun were removed from the streets.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!**



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Tobias".

Matthew Tobias  
Commander  
Special Operations Section

**AWARD**

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Officer Jason VanDyke #9465**  
**Targeted Response Unit**

FOR . . . .

**Offender Arrested for Aggravated UUV**  
**HK 364917**

On 14 May 04, you and Officers Juan Hernandez, Cynthia Contreras, Gabriella Wurm, Bradley Nielsen, Daniel Pacelli, Steve Marino, John Burke and Francisco Gonzalez, stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. Upon approaching the vehicle, the driver was observed placing his right hand under his seat. The driver was removed from the vehicle and a search of the driver's seat area revealed a loaded handgun. The driver was placed into custody and taken to the 002<sup>nd</sup> District for processing.

Officer VanDyke, due to your dedication to duty and keen observation, a handgun was removed from the street and the offender was charged accordingly.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!**



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

*Matthew E. Tobias*  
Matthew E. Tobias  
Commander  
Special Operations Section

**AWARD**

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Officer Jason VanDyke #9465**  
**Targeted Response Unit**

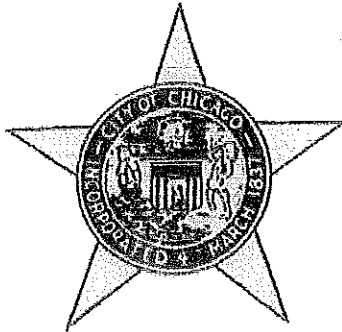
FOR . . . .

**Offender Arrested for Manufacture/Deliver Cocaine**  
**HK 366975**

On 15 May 04, you and Officers Juan Hernandez, Cynthia Contreras, Gabriella Wurm, Bradley Nielsen, Daniel Pacelli and Steve Marino, stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. The driver was unable to produce a valid Driver's License and was placed in custody. A passenger in the vehicle was removed and a custodial search of the vehicle was performed which resulted in the recovery of a large plastic bag containing a white powder. A sample of the powder was field tested and resulted in a positive reading for cocaine. The passenger was placed into custody and both were taken to the 002<sup>nd</sup> District for processing. The recovered suspect cocaine weighed 635 grams with an estimated street value of \$79,375.00 USC.

Officer VanDyke, due to your dedication to duty and keen observation, a large quantity of narcotics was removed from the street and the offenders were charged accordingly.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!**



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

*Matthew E. Tobias*  
Matthew E. Tobias  
Commander  
Special Operations Section

**AWARD**



# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Honorable Mention

PRESENTED TO . . . .

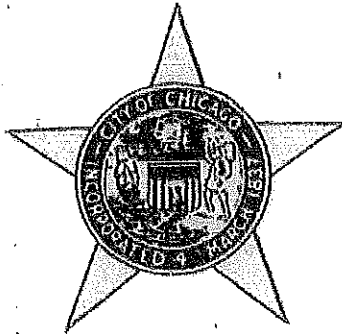
Officer Jason Van Dyke #9465

FOR . . . .  
UW ARREST  
HK-396999

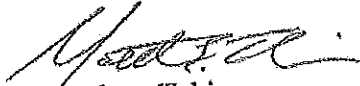
On 30 May 04 you and Officer Nielsen #19865 were assigned to an armed violence suppression mission in the 010<sup>th</sup> District. While on alert and aggressive patrol, you observed a vehicle commit a minor traffic violation. With the assistance of Officers Cruz #14723 and Heneghan #13066, you curbed the vehicle. Upon approaching the vehicle the handle of a semi-automatic pistol was observed in the center counsel of the vehicle. The weapon was subsequently recovered and found to be a fully loaded .9 mm semi-automatic pistol. A small quantity of cannabis was also recovered from the vehicle. The offender was charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon.

Officer Van Dyke, due to your dedication to duty a dangerous felon was removed from the streets and charged accordingly.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!!!



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

  
Matthew Tobias  
Commander  
Special Operations Section

# AWARD

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Officer Jason Van Dyke # 9465  
Targeted Response Unit**

FOR . . . .

**Unlawful Possession of a Handgun  
HJ - 396 999**

On 30 May 2004, you and Officers Bradley Nielsen, John Heneghen, and Ralph Cruz were working a Targeted Response mission to combat gang related violence. You curbed a vehicle for minor traffic violations and upon approaching the vehicle you smelled a strong odor of Cannabis. After having the driver step out of the vehicle you observed the butt of a firearm protruding from the center console of the vehicle. You immediately recovered the firearm and found it to be a 9mm Semi-Automatic. Further investigation of the firearm revealed the serial number was defaced. The offender was placed into custody and charged accordingly.

Due to your keen observations and dedication to duty, a violent offender and his handgun were removed from the streets.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE!**



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Tobias".

Matthew Tobias  
Commander  
Special Operations Section

**AWARD**

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Officer Jason Van Dyke # 9465  
Targeted Response Unit**

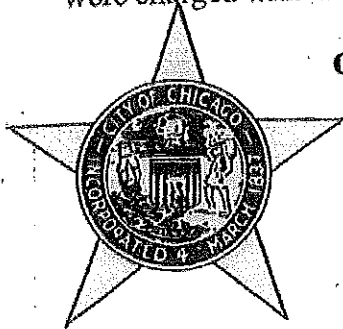
FOR . . . .

**Attempt Robbery and Battery  
HK-545 427**

On 8 August 2004, you and Officer Bradley Nielsen were flagged down by a citizen who related that a group of juveniles approached her and wanted money. When the victim refused the offenders began striking the victim about the body and attempted to steal her money from her. One of the offenders then struck the victim in the face with her "sucker". An unknown witness screamed and the offenders ran off. After getting the descriptions of the offenders you and other members of Team 4212 toured the area and located all of the offenders. One offender was also still in possession of her "sucker". After taking the sucker from the offenders mouth, the victim positively identified the offenders and her "sucker".

Due to your keen observations and aggressive police work, the "Sucker Bandits" were charged with attempt robbery and battery.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE**



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

*J. Keating*  
James Keating  
Commander  
Targeted Response Unit

**AWARD**

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

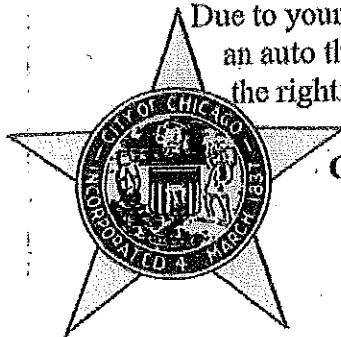
**Officer Jason Van Dyke # 9465  
Targeted Response Unit**

FOR . . . .

**Possession of Stolen Motor Vehicle  
HK-773 010**

On 25 November 2004, you and Officer Daniel Pacelli were working a Targeted Response mission. You were flagged down by citizens who related to you that there was a hit and run accident and gave you the description of the wanted vehicle. You were able to locate the vehicle unoccupied and shortly after observed a subject running through a gangway a short distance away. You were able to apprehend the subject and he made voluntary statements to you that he was driving the car. A computer check of the plate revealed that the car was stolen. After reading the subject his rights you conducted a skillful interview with the subject in custody and he admitted that he had stolen the car a couple of days earlier from 63<sup>rd</sup> and Austin. He further stated that he stole the car because his "girlfriend was making him crazy and he had to get away from her". A custodial search revealed a "jiggler" key on his person. The offender was charged accordingly.

Due to your attention to duty, quick response, and skillful interview technique, an auto theft offender was taken off the streets and the vehicle returned to the rightful owner.



**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE**

Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

*J. Keating*  
James Keating  
Commander  
Targeted Response Unit

**AWARD**

# CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Honorable Mention

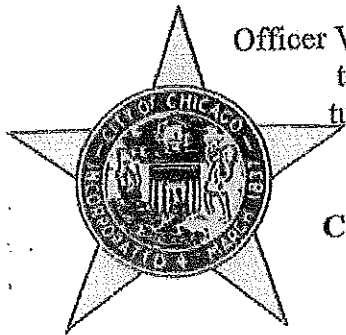
PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Officer Jason Van Dyke # 9465**  
**Targeted Response Unit**

FOR . . . .

**Attention to Duty**  
**HK-662 759**

On 2 October 04, you and Officer Brad Nielsen were working a Targeted Response mission in the 007 District. While on patrol you observed a vehicle commit traffic violations. Upon curbing the vehicle the driver was unable to produce a valid Drivers License. A custodial search revealed 3 packets of Heroin. While processing the offender you and your partner Officer Nielsen conducted a skillful interview with your arrestee and she related to you that there was \$30,000 of counterfeit money hidden in the vehicle. You and members of your team recovered the counterfeit money and learned that the vehicle owner was printing the counterfeit money. You along with your team members were able to locate the leader of the counterfeit ring and brought him in for an interview by the United States Secret Service. The United States Secret Service, after interviewing the subject learned that he was a major player in a large counterfeit money ring. The Secret Service took the person into custody and will continue the investigation into catching other key persons in the ring.



Officer Van Dyke, due to your keen observations and interviewing techniques, you were able to take a minor PCS arrest and turn up key players in a large counterfeit money scheme.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE**

*J. L. Keating*  
James Keating  
Commander

Targeted Response Unit

Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

# AWARD

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Officer Jason VanDyke #9465  
Targeted Response Unit**

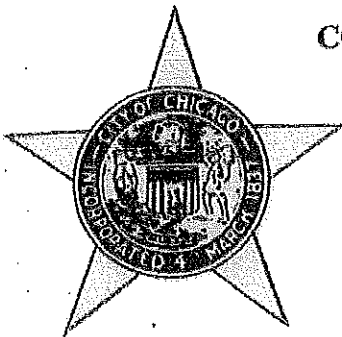
FOR . . . .

**Possession of Stolen Motor Vehicle  
HK-802857**

On 11 Dec 2004, Officers Neil Griffin #3384 and Tom McKenna #13122 were assigned to a Targeted Response Unit Armed Violence Mission in the 004th District. While on aggressive patrol, they observed a vehicle commit a minor traffic violation. They ran the plate through their PDT and found the vehicle had been reported stolen. They called for assist cars and attempted to curb the vehicle without incident. Once they had assists available, they activated their emergency equipment. The offenders immediately fled on foot and were apprehended by yourself and assisting Officers Bradley Nielsen #19865, Ron Jones #19553, and Willis Rounds #13348.

Due to your keen observations and excellent Police tactics, two offenders were removed from the streets, and the vehicle was returned to its rightful owner. Thanks for a job well done. It gives me great pleasure to award this honorable mention.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE**



*J. I. Keating*

James Keating  
Commander  
Targeted Response Unit.

Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Phillip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

**AWARD**

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Officer Jason Van Dyke # 9465  
Targeted Response Unit**

FOR . . . .

**Unlawful Use of A Weapon  
HL - 348304**

On 10 May 2005, you and your partner, Officer Bradley Nielsen were working a Targeted Response Mission in the 005 District to combat gang related shootings when heard a vehicle in traffic with loud music. This music being in violation of city law, you curbed this vehicle and conducted a search of the vehicle. This search revealed a Ruger 9 mm. Semi-automatic handgun. The firearm was loaded with 10 live rounds.

Due to your keen observations and aggressive police work, a dangerous felon along with his firearm was removed from the street and charged accordingly.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

*James M. Keating*

**James Keating  
Commander  
Targeted Response Unit**

AWARD

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Honorable Mention*

PRESENTED TO . . . .

**Officer Jason Van Dyke # 9465  
Targeted Response Unit**

FOR . . . .

**Delivery of a Controlled Substance  
HL - 584 454**

On 1 September 2005, you were working a Targeted Response Mission in the 010 District with Officer Bradley Nielsen. After receiving information of narcotics sales you along with the rest of the team developed a surveillance plan. After a transaction was observed by surveillance officers, you along with Officers Contreras, Hernandez and Nielsen curbed the suspect vehicle and a search of the vehicle revealed 478 grams of Crack Cocaine. You placed the subject into custody and a custodial search revealed \$2,512.00 suspect narcotic proceeds. The second subject was placed into custody by the surveillance officers which also turned up an additional bag of Crack Cocaine.

Due to your keen observations and aggressive police work, two drug dealers were removed from the streets along with their crack cocaine which had a estimated street value of \$59,000.00 and their proceeds of \$2512.00.

**CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE**



Richard M. Daley, Mayor  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent of Police

*Edward E. O'Donnell*  
**Edward E. O'Donnell  
Commander  
Targeted Response Unit**

**AWARD**



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**NARCOTICS ARREST AND RECOVERY**

On 20 December 2005, you along with your partner were working a Targeted Response mission in the Harold Ickes CHA Housing complex. Being aware of the large amount of narcotics activity in the lobby of 2430 S State, you set up surveillance of that area. During that surveillance you observed a subject engage in several hand to hand transactions wherein your target subject received currency from patrons in return for a small object tendered from the dealers waistband. After several of the same type of transactions you left your point of surveillance and converged on the lobby of the building. You were able to detain the suspect drug dealer and during a protective pat down you recovered a clear bag containing 86 knotted baggies of crack cocaine. You placed the subject into custody and he was charged accordingly. A further investigation revealed that your arrestee did not live in the complex, and had been arrested four times for narcotics from the same address. Due to your dedication and knowledge of the criminal narcotic enterprise, you removed a habitual drug dealer, and his cocaine worth over \$10,000 from the streets. Congratulations on a job well done!

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Philip J. Cline*

Philip J. Cline  
Superintendent of Police



Elias A Voulgaris  
Commander, Unit 233

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**UJW ARREST AND RECOVERY**

On 01 January 2006, you along with Team 4217 were working the New Years Eve detail to suppress gun activity that has plagued the city for several years. After observing a vehicle driving on the train tracks in the 022 District you attempted to stop it. The vehicle fled and then abandoned the vehicle further down the tracks. A foot pursuit occured and you apprehended the offender. After returning to the abandoned vehicle and conducting a search of the arrestees vehicle, you recovered a fully loaded 9mm Ruger.

Due to your aggressive police work, a dangerous criminals New Years eve celebration was ended early after he was arrested and his weapon was recovered. Congratulations on the great start to a New Year and job well done!

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Philip J. Cline*

Philip J. Cline  
Superintendent of Police

*E. A. Voulgaris*

Elias A Voulgaris  
Commander, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**NARCOTICS ARRESWT AND RECOVERY**

On 4 Jan 2006, You were working a Targeted Response mission in 015 to combat gang violence and narcotics activity. While on patrol you were flagged down by a citizen who related that there were gang members in his elderly mother's home cutting and bagging crack cocaine for street sales. You along with assisting officers entered the residence and observed multiple gang members packaging crack cocaine. You immediatly placed the gangsters into custody and recovered from the room 42.2 grams of crack cocaine and \$4078.00. After interviewing the arrestees, you learned that one of the other persons in custody was in charge of storing the packaged crack at his house. You were able to determine where he lived and relocated there. The offenders live in girlfriend signed a consent to search and you recovered an additional 63.8 grams of crack cocaine. You also recovered an additional \$320.00 in narcotics proceeds.


Due to your knowledge of the criminal narcotics enterprise and the ability to gather information from persons in custody, you were able to arrest multiple gang members, shut down their dope spot and recover over \$5000.00 in narcotics proceeds and 106 grams of crack cocaine worth over \$8,000.00. Congratulations on a great job!

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Philip J. Cline*

Philip J. Cline  
Superintendent of Police



Elias A Voulgaris  
Commander, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**CANNABIS AND FIREARM ARREST**


On 01 April 2006, you along with team members of Team 4217 were working a Targeted Response mission to combat gang violence and street level narcotic activity. While on patrol you observed a subject loitering in an alley for several minutes. You approached him for a field interview to determine his gang affiliation and reasoning for being in the ally. A protective pat down search revealed a large bag of cannabis stuck into his waistband area. As you recovered the cannabis the arrestee fled on foot. You along with your team gave chase as the offender fled into the rear door of a building. You made entry into the building and found the subject hiding in the basement. The buiding revealed that the offender lived at the same location. A search of the area turned up an additional three bags of cannabis. A total weight of the cannabis recovered was 1 lb with an street value of over \$1,000.00. You also located a sawed off shotgun in the basement. After you read the arrestee his rights, he freely admitted ownership of the recovered cannabis. Due to your keen observation attention to detail, a cannabis dealer waas removed from the street along with his cannabis. Thanks for the great job!

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Philip J. Cline*

Philip J. Cline  
Superintendent of Police

  
Elias A Voulgaris  
Commander, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
**HONORABLE MENTION**

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**RECOVERED FIREARMS**


On 7 April 2006, you and members of Team 4217 were working a Targeted Response mission in the 008 District to combat gang related homicides and shootings. You were able to arrest a subject for misdemeanor cannabis. After conducting a gang related interview with the arrestee you were able to determine that he was a ranking member of the Gangster Disciple street gang. You further learned that he was a five time convicted armed felon. After learning this information you were able to use his criminal background against him and extracted locations of stashed "G.D Nation" guns. You relocated to the two areas that he notified you on and recovered a .380 caliber pistol and a .22 caliber revolver. Due to your interviewing technique and dedication, a misdemeanor arrest yielded information leading to the recovery of 2 dangerous weapons under the control of the Gangster Disciples. Congratulations on a job well done!

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Philip J. Cline*

Philip J. Cline  
Superintendent of Police

  
Elias A Voulgaris  
Commander, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**UUW-BY FELON**

ON 10 JUN 07 AT 0007 HRS., BT. 4216B, P.O. DAVID QUINN #4233 AND BT. 4216, SGT. GEOFFREY JANIA #1131, HEARD LOUD REPORTS IN THE AREA OF 27 EAST 113TH PLACE AND OBSERVED A VEHICLE LEAVING THE AREA AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED AND WITH NO HEADLIGHTS. BT. 4216B AND 4216 ATTEMPTED TO CURB THE VEHICLE AND THE DRIVER REFUSED TO DO SO. THE DRIVER WAS OBSERVED BY THE OFFICERS THROWING FROM THE PASSENGER SIDE WINDOW AN OBJECT, LATER IDENTIFIED AS AN INTRATEC 22 CAL SEMI-AUTO HANDGUN SERIAL # K006193 LOADED WITH THREE LIVE ROUNDS AND ONE CHAMBERED ROUND. THE DRIVER EVENTUALLY PULLED OVER AT 11347 S. STATE ST. THE FIREARM WAS LOCATED BY BT. 4217E, POLICE OFFICERS THOMAS MCKENNA #13122 AND JASON VANDYKE #9465, AT 50 EAST 114TH ST. THE DRIVER WAS PLACED IN CUSTODY. A SPENT ROUND AND SPENT SHELL CASINGS, ALONG WITH A CAR WITH MULTIPLE BULLET HOLES IN THE DRIVER'S SIDE, WERE LOCATED AND BT. 4212A, POLICE OFFICERS ELIZABETH WILSON # 13125 AND GERALDINE MCDONAGH #13125, PROTECTED THE SCENE FOR PROCESSING BY THE EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN. DURING PROCESSING IN THE 005TH DISTRICT IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE DRIVER WAS A CONVICTED FELON AND THE RECOVERED FIREARM WAS REPORTED STOLEN UNDER RD #D086377 ON 11 FEB 99. FELONY CHARGES WERE APPROVED.

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Philip J. Cline*

Phillip J. Cline  
Superintendent of Police

*[Signature]*  
Elias A Voulgaris  
Commander of TRU Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**OUTSTANDING UYW ARREST**

On 4 July 2007, Officers VAN DYKE and McKENNA were assigned to the 003rd District conducting a violence suppression mission as part of the Targeted Response Units A Company. While on aggressive patrol in the area of 65th Street and Dröxel Avenue they observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed without any displayed registration. They then curbed the vehicle and observed the driver moving in a manner consistent with an attempt to secrete contraband under the car seat. The driver was ordered from the vehicle for officer safety and placed into custody for a failure to produce a drivers license or insurance. A search of the car revealed a fully loaded Ruger P34 pistol with 10 rounds in it. Due to your dedication to duty, a felon was removed from the street and felony charges secured, and another handgun was safely taken out of circulation. Your actions reflect well upon yourself, the Targeted Response Unit and the Chicago Police Department. Thank you for a job well done.

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Jody P. Weis*

Jody P. Weis  
Superintendent of Police



Terence V. Williams  
Commander, TRU, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**UNLAWFUL USE OF WEAPON**

On 21 AUGUST 2007, Targeted Response Unit Police Officers Jason Van Dyke #9465 and Thomas McKenna #13122, while working beat 4217 E in the 006th District Level 2 deployment area, attempted to stop a vehicle with four occupants for a traffic violation near 79th St. and Carpenter. While waiting for the vehicle to stop, the front seat passenger exited the vehicle holding his side and fled on foot. During the foot chase P.O. McKenna observed the subject toss a handgun into a garbage container. Police Officers Jason Cartwright #9197 and Joseph Merkel #19301, working beat 4217 D, responded to the area and assisted P.O. McKenna in placing the subject into custody. A check of the garbage container revealed a 9mm Smith & Wesson semi-automatic handgun fully loaded with 16 rounds of ammunition. The subject was taken to the 006th District for processing where felony charges were approved.

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Dana V. Starks*

Dana V. Starks  
Interim Superintendent of Police

*Elias A. Voulgaris*

Elias A. Voulgaris  
Commander of TRU Unit 253



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**HONORABLE MENTION**

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**OUTSTANDING PSMV ARRESTS**

On 19 October 2007, Officers MASSAS and TORRES were assigned to a violence suppression mission in the 015th District as part of the Targeted Response Units A Company. While in the area of Ohio and Latrobe Avenues, they observed a vehicle being driven with no registration plates on it. After attempting to curb this vehicle, the driver attempted to flee on foot but was quickly placed into custody, along with the four other occupants of the vehicle, with the assistance of responding officers VAN DYKE, ROVANO, MARINO, DUBOIS and MULLENIX. A VIN check revealed the vehicle to be stolen. Due to your dedication to duty and diligence, a stolen vehicle was returned to its owner and the driver of the vehicle was charged with a felony count of Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle as well as four other occupants being appropriately charged. Your actions bring credit upon yourself and reflect well on the Targeted Response Unit and the Chicago Police Department. Thanks for a job well done.

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Jody P. Weis*

Jody P. Weis  
Superintendent of Police



Terence V. Williams  
Commander, TRU, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

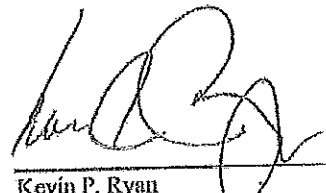
In Summary, this is an arrest by the TRU beats 4217A, 4217B and 4211D for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm. In that P/O Petullis and P/O Shrake responded to a call of a man with a gun at 7622 S. Paulina. Upon arrival, the officers were met by Jewel Turner who informed the officers that his wife had threatened him with a gun. After conducting a interview with the offender's son the officers along with the assistance of P/O Torres, P/O Van Dyke, P/O Fry and P/O Pinzine were able to recover 1 Rossi .38 Caliber blue steel revolver with a 4 inch barrel and 1 box containing 36 live rounds .38 Caliber rounds. The offender Doris Turner was taken into custody and transported into the 006th District for initial processing. The gun came back clear not registered via the gun desk. Because of these officers quick response a very dangerous domestic situation was resolved without anyone being injured, Thank You officer's for a job well done.

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Jody P. Weis*

Jody P. Weis  
Superintendent of Police



Kevin P. Ryan  
Commander, TRU, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*HONORABLE MENTION*

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**AGGRAVATED U UW ARREST**

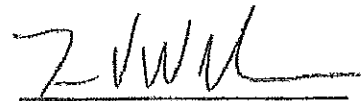
On 17 September 2008, Officers McGrew and Van Dyke conducted a traffic stop after observing a minor traffic violation. The offender admitted to being in possession of cannabis and was placed into custody. A custodial search of the offender's vehicle revealed a fully loaded .45 cal semi-auto handgun. During skillful interrogation the offender admitted to owning the gun. Felony review was contacted and charges of Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon were approved.  
Thank you for a job well done.

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Jody P. Weis*

Jody P. Weis  
Superintendent of Police



Terence V. Williams  
Commander, TRU, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**AGGRAVATED U UW ARREST**

On 17 September 2008, Officers Rovano and Van Dyke observed a subject place a shiny object in his waist band. The officers, believing it to be a weapon, approached the subject to investigate and the offender fled on foot. The officers engaged the subject in a foot pursuit, at which time, the offender was apprehended. The officers recovered a loaded .357 magnum handgun on the offender's person. Felony review was contacted and the charge of Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon was approved. Thank you for a job well done.

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Jody P. Weis*

Jody P. Weis  
Superintendent of Police



Terence V. Williams  
Commander, TRU, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

*HONORABLE MENTION*

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**AGGRAVATED UYW ARREST**

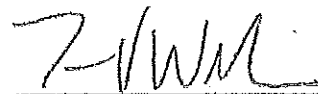
On 28 October 2008, Officers Dubois, Van Dyke and Rovano conducted a traffic stop after observing a minor traffic violation. The offender was placed into custody for driving with a revoked drivers license. A custodial search of the offender revealed a fully loaded .32 Cal semi-auto handgun. A further investigation revealed the offender to be a member of the Gangster Disciples street gang. Felony review was contacted and charges of Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon were approved. Thank you for a job well done.

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Jody P. Weis*

Jody P. Weis  
Superintendent of Police



Terence V. Williams  
Commander, TRU, Unit 253

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
***HONORABLE MENTION***

*Presented To*

**JASON VAN DYKE #9465**

*In Recognition of*

**U UW BY A FELON ARREST**

On 29 October 2008, Officer Buback and McGrew, assisted by Officer Torres and Van Dyke attempted to interview a suspicious subject. As the officers approached, the offender fled on foot. The officers pursued and recovered a 9mm semi-auto handgun the offender tossed. After a brief foot chase the offender was placed into custody after a struggle with officers. Further investigation revealed the offender was a convicted felon, a member of the Vice Lords street gang and on parole. Felony review was contacted and charges of Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon were approved. I.D.O.C. were contacted and a warrant for a parole violation was issued.

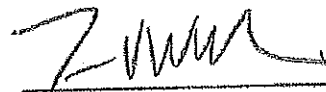
Due to the officer's dedication to duty, a dangerous gang member and a deadly weapon were removed from the streets of Chicago. Thank you for a job well done

*Richard M. Daley*

Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

*Jody P. Weis*

Jody P. Weis  
Superintendent of Police



Terence V. Williams  
Commander, TRU, Unit 253



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

Suite 900  
525 West Van Buren  
Chicago, IL 60607

January 4, 2005

CHICAGO POLICE  
-2 FEB 05 11 05  
OFFICE OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Phil Cline  
Chicago Police Department  
121 North LaSalle  
Chicago, IL 60653

Dear Superintendent Cline:

On behalf of the U.S. Secret Service, I would like to extend my appreciation for the outstanding assistance rendered to agents of this service by members of your department.

In October of 2004, information involving the distribution of counterfeit U.S. currency in the Chicago area was brought to our attention by officers of your Police Department. Over the course of the next two weeks, Officers Brad Nielsen #19865, Jason Van Dyke #9465, Dan Pacelli #8802, Steven Marino #4718, Jason Barney #11095, John Gianopoulos #11680 and Sergeant James Ryle #1793 in a joint effort with Chicago agents, conducted interviews and tracked the counterfeit back to its source. As a result of officers of your Police Department a federal arrest warrant was obtained for the suspect.

The coordinated efforts between your officers and the agents resulted in the arrest of John Hickey who resided in Chicago.

In recognition of your Department's exceptional effort and cooperation, please pass along my appreciation for a job well done.

Sincerely,

Thomas N. Kasza  
Acting Special Agent In Charge



U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

Chicago Field Office  
Suite 900  
525 West Van Buren Street  
Chicago, IL 60607

January 19, 2005

Superintendent Philip J. Cline  
Chicago Police Department  
3510 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60653

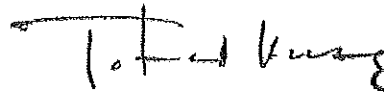
Dear Superintendent <sup>Cline</sup> Cline:

On behalf of the United States Secret Service, I would like to extend my appreciation for the outstanding assistance rendered to agents of my office by members of the Chicago Police Department.

In October 2004, information involving the distribution of counterfeit United States Currency in the Chicago area was brought to our attention by officers of your department. Over the course of the next two weeks, Officers Brad Nielsen - Star #19865, Jason Van Dyke - Star #9465, Dan Pacelli - Star #8802, Steven Marino - Star #4718, Jason Barney - Star #11095, John Gianopoulos - Star #11680, and Sergeant James Ryle - Star #1793, in a joint effort with Chicago agents, conducted interviews and tracked the counterfeit back to its source. As a result of the hard work and dedication of the above Chicago Police Department personnel, a federal arrest warrant was obtained and the suspect, who resided in Chicago, was arrested.

In recognition of their exceptional effort and cooperation, please pass along my appreciation for a job well done. We value our friendship with the men and women of the Chicago Police Department. If we can be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my office or me at 312-353-5431.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas N. Kasza  
Special Agent in Charge

RECEIVED  
SUPERINTENDENT  
24 JAN 05 10 59





U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

Chicago Field Office  
Suite 900  
525 West Van Buren Street  
Chicago, IL 60607

March 23, 2005

Chicago Police Department  
Superintendent Philip J. Cline  
Office of the Superintendent  
3510 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60653

Dear Superintendent Cline:

On behalf of the United States Secret Service, I would like to extend my appreciation for the outstanding assistance rendered to agents of my office by members of the Chicago Police Department's Target Response Unit during a recent investigation involving counterfeit United States currency.

In October 2004, information involving the distribution of counterfeit currency in the Chicago area was brought to our attention by officers of your department. Officers Brad Nielsen #19865, Jason Van Dyke #9465, Dan Pacelli #8802, Steven Marino #4718, Jason Barney #11095, John Gianopoulos #11680 and Sergeant James Ryle #1793, in a joint effort with special agents of the Chicago Field Office, tracked the counterfeit currency back to its source. The cooperation and professionalism displayed by your officers during the suspect interviews was an integral part of the success of this investigation.

On March 16, 2005, agents of the Secret Service made multiple arrests as a result of this investigation and seized in excess of \$160,000.00 in counterfeit U.S. currency.

In recognition of their effort, professionalism and dedication please pass along my appreciation for a job well done. We value our friendship with the men and women of the Chicago Police Department. If we can be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my office or me at 312-353-5431.

Sincerely,

David W. Fisher  
Acting Special Agent in Charge

25 MAR 05 11 56  
SUPERINTENDENT  
CHICAGO POLICE DEPT.

## EXHIBIT 2

30 October 2018

Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan, Circuit Judge  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave., Rm.500  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Dear Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I don't even know where to begin. I am writing this letter so late because there are no words to describe how I am feeling or what I or my family are even going through. It all started when my parents were dating and had me, their eldest daughter, Kaylee Van Dyke. My dad was in the police academy and we lived in an apartment in Chicago which later on became my home. Growing up hasn't been easy. I was and still am very blessed with the life I have. My dad was and still is very protective of my sister and me because he knows the dangers of what happens on the streets of Chicago daily. He has worked endless shifts either days, mornings and even nights to serve and protect the city of Chicago.

Over the course of the past five years I have been bullied, teased, picked on, threatened, you name it. All because my dad did his job. My life has been turned upside down and flipped over multiple times, but somehow I get back up and do my best not to continue to cry or show my anger. My parents tell me to this day that I am one of the best surprises they have ever received and will do whatever it takes to protect my sister and I no matter what. I have never seen a happier family man. My dad has taught me so much and is so proud of my accomplishments. We have an unbreakable bond that my mom and I do not have. I have his sense of humor and looks and his hard working skills.

He gets along with anyone he meets and has respect for everyone. I know what kind of man my father is. He raised me from birth, October 7, 2001. The day of his verdict not only was my heart ripped out of my chest, but he wouldn't be there for my seventeenth birthday which made me fall into a depression. I did not celebrate nor did I feel like it because it broke my heart that my very own father was not there to watch me blow my candles out. Not only was Thanksgiving taken away from us a few years back, but so was my birthday, and now Halloween. On October 4, 2018, my dad had left court because I was being threatened at school and was automatically pulled from class and sent to the two Chicago Police Officers we have at my school. That night my dad cried when he returned to court because he was trying to come to me to protect me like any other father would. When he returned back home that night I collapsed crying my heart out because I blamed myself and still do because he had to leave court. I have lost so many friends, including my best friend, the choice to attend a private school,

family members, and many more. My teenage life should be about experiencing high school and finding who I am. Instead I have grown up at a very young age and know what the evils of the real world are.

I can continue to tell you what an amazing, remarkable, outstanding man my father is, but I want you to get to know the real Jason Van Dyke. I know who he really is and not what the public has portrayed him to be as well as the media or any news source. Over the years I have learned how to handle my emotions and deal with him going to court, but now that he is gone I feel as I am left with nothing. My father is locked up for serving and protecting the streets of Chicago. For doing his job. On a squad car "We serve and protect" is painted in big bold white letters on the door. Is that not what my father has done?

I receive one phone call a day to hear my dad's voice. My family has to drive three hours only one day out of the week to only see him for an hour. The last time I hugged my dad or gave him a kiss goodbye was on October 5, 2018. Now I touch his hand through a piece of dirty glass and speak through a phone where the connection breaks in and out of. I do not eat like I used to, I have no appetite. I do not sleep at night due to nightmares and crying because I wonder if my dad has pillows or blankets or has eaten before going to bed. I do not have the energy to do homework, see the friends I have, or enjoy any sports I was in. If I do sleep it is because I cry myself to sleep wondering why this world is backwards and why my dad was targeted. Chicago was home. Now it's a place I look at to stay in.

My dad is like any other regular man out there in this world, but one billion times better. He is my hero, my shoulder to cry on, my mentor. Not a day goes by where I do not pray or write a letter to him. That is one of the only ways I have to communicate with the man who has helped bring me into this world. I have seen my father every day of my life and waking up and knowing he isn't here or when he will come home kills me. There is not a day that goes by where I am not proud of him. He put his life on the line for the entire city like the rest of the Chicago Police Department. He does not deserve to sit behind bars for serving and protecting Chicago. Only he was in this position and had to make a split second decision to protect himself and Chicago. My heart sincerely goes to the McDonald family, but it's time to bring my dad home. It's time for him to see my sister graduate eighth grade and watch we graduate high school. It's time for him to hug and kiss his wife and protect his family. Bring my dad home. Please. Stop the crying and the pain and give my dad leniency. He is an amazing father and I will never stop being "daddy's little girl." Bring him home.

Sincerely,  
*Kaylee Van Dyke*  
Kaylee Van Dyke

Kaylee Van Dyke

Mr. Cremins

Civics 7th

22 October 2018

### The Harsh Reality of What a Police Officer's Job is Really Like

When talking about a police officer and their job, the topic can turn everyone in a room against each other. Some people have negative opinions on the Chicago Police Department or any other officers due to the media. What others do not understand is the media twists events that take place with any event or the Chicago Police Department in general, making people create negative thoughts and opinions. A Chicago Police Officer's job is to serve and protect the city and the people. An that is exactly what they do. What some do not realize is that officers have a tough job and have to deal with dangerous people at times, that the media does not capture for the rest of us to see. When those who do not cooperate with the officer(s) that's what causes the next problem that is a huge topic in media lately known as "police brutality." Many get "police brutality" confused with assertiveness and having to handle someone who's acting out of control. If you call this number at (312) 618-6666, a defense attorney named Joe Lopez will have a recording for you to listen to stating "do not fight the officer, go calmly and listen because if you do not it will only cause more problems and have the officer act more harshly to get you into the car to take you to the station." Due to training, if you do not act appropriately, the officer has to use some type of force (not police brutality) to get you into the car. When protecting the streets of Chicago, Police Officers encounter others with weapons that could potentially hurt others or even an officer. As a daughter of a police officer, I know what their job is actually like and not what it is made out to be by the media. I know the positives of a Police Officer, the

Chicago Police Department, FOP, etc. For a cop, the rose-colored glasses are always off on duty. They look at reality and what the world is really like in order to protect. The media and news shames police officers for doing their jobs. The Chicago Police Department, officers, and their families are one giant family and not only do they take care of others, they take care of each other. The answer is not to have better training for police officers, because going through the Police Academy, they already have vigorous strict training that make them have to deal with the difficulties they face on a daily and the dangerous people and situations they are put through. The answer is how does society change to realize officer's are normal people have families who put their life on the line to protect us. Police officers do not care about what color you are, if you are short or tall, etc. They care about your safety. What we can do to change the negativity built upon the Chicago Police Department and its officers is to stop relying on the media and news for their opinions and to develop our own through knowing the truth of a situation and nothing but the truth to develop better, positive opinions on our officers. It's important to rely on the truth because you will be able to finally understand that a Police Officer's job is to serve and Protect and not about "police brutality."

This was a speech I had written for my civics class and I thought you would like to read it.

October , 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, Il 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

SIR, please find it in your heart  
to show mercy to our fellow brother in  
blue. I've been on the job for 22 years, been  
in several OIG's, I sympathize with Officer  
Van Dyke. I feel for his children and his  
wife. I respectfully ask you Sir, to  
simply have mercy.

Sincerely,

P.O. Orlando Sanchez Sr.  
CPD SWAT UNIT

October 6, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I have never met Jason, but being a Chicago Police Officer, I do know how hard this job can be. It is horribly difficult to make split second decisions for the safety of your self and your sisters & Brothers in blue. Please look upon Jason with a kind heart.

Sincerely,

P.O. Matt Koegler  
Chicago Police Department



October 30, 2018.

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am requesting Leniency for Jason Van Dyke's sentencing. I believe the jury was influenced by the media and more concerned about possible riots in the streets than the circumstance of the night in question.

The video that the media kept showing over and over was not from Jason's view. It tainted the trial.

Again I ask for Leniency for Jason as his homeroom instructor he was very well mannered and considerate of others.

Sincerely,

Coraly Hudette  
Retired Officer

October 20, 2018.

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave., Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am requesting leniency for  
Jason Van Dyke in that he was not able  
to get a fair trial here in Chicago. The  
media had tainted the public and the  
jury.

Please be lenient in the sentencing.

Sincerely,

Sergio Hernandez  
Retired Det.

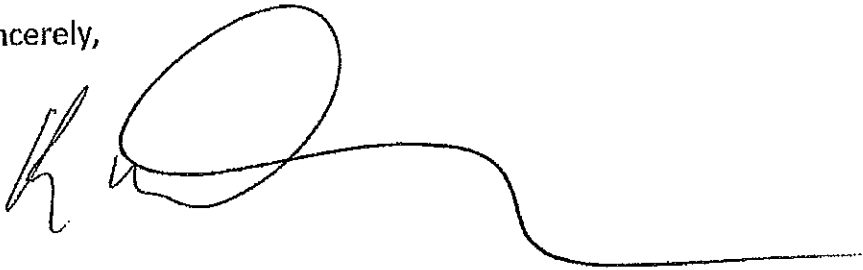
October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please be lenient in sentencing officer  
Van Dyke. He is a public servant  
and has dealt with animals while  
protecting the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'h' followed by a large, circular flourish that extends into a long, horizontal line across the bottom of the page.

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please remember the stress and everyday experience  
he lived through. He is not Col. Kurtz or  
the racist killer made out in the media. See the  
man for who he is and what he tried to  
do to protect the city.

Sincerely,

Oct. O'R

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER THE LEAST  
SEVERE SENTENCE TO PO VAN DYKE THE LAW  
WILL PROVIDE. HE WAS ON DUTY AND IT WAS  
NOT INTENTIONAL. CONSIDERATION FOR FAMILY

Sincerely,

George E. Radtke

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

*Sir please give consideration to  
Van Hlyk family when giving sentence*

Sincerely,

*Louis Marolda*  
CFD

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please be lenient in your sentencing of P.O. Jason  
Van Dyke. Time served should be sufficient.  
Mr Van Dyke made ~~de~~ a mistake and has already  
paid dearly

Sincerely,

ROBERT A SKALSKI



October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

OFFICER VAN DYKE SERVED THE CITY WITH  
DISTRACTION BEFORE THE TRAGIC SHOOTING OF LAQUAN  
MCDONALD. PLEASE SHOW LENIENCY

Sincerely,

*John M. [Signature]*  
John McCloskey  
CHICAGO IL



October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

My name is Sid Blustein  
7.7 on Engine 55. Please find  
it in your heart to have  
mercy on P.O. Van Dyke.

Sincerely,

Sid Blustein  
7.7 Engine 55

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

In this sentencing case for Officer Van Dyke I ask  
that you be lenient with the amount of time he will  
serve. This situation has an impact on his family.

Sincerely,

George T. Bantz  
Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

When considering the Sentencing of Officer  
Jason Van Dylce please be lenient. Jason  
is a good human being and was put into a  
terrible situation that he shouldn't have been in.  
His daughters need him more now than ever.  
Little girls need their father. God bless you  
and God bless the Van Dylce Family.

Sincerely,  
Thank you for your time  
Kimberly Otten

- I am a registered voter

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I feel that officer Van Dyke was acting  
on behalf of my safety and the safety  
of the rest of the Chicago Community.

Please be lenient in sentencing officer Van Dyke.  
Chicago Needs Police on the Street who are  
willing to protect the citizens of Chicago at all costs.  
Even if it means putting their life on the line - & losing  
EVERYTHING.

Sincerely,

Samantha Allen  
~~Samantha~~ Allen

I am a Registered Voter!!  


October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

In this sentencing case for Jason Van Dyke, I ask that you be lenient with the time he has to serve. My brother, John Fritz, was also a police officer so I know the impact this situation can have on a family. Getting to know Jason these past few years has been a pleasure, so I ask that you take his character into consideration when deciding his sentencing. Thank you.

Maureen Kosmala.

I am a registered voter.

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

When considering the sentencing of Officer Jason Van Dyke, I ask you to think about the man behind this horrible situation, the family he still has to support, and the many lives he has touched along the way. Coming from a family with many officers in it, I ask that sincerely, you take his entire career into consideration before this trial.

Andrea Allen

*Andrea Allen*

- I am a registered voter.

---

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

*Please show leniency at sentencing for this officer.*

Sincerely,

*Jason Vera*

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

*Please let a great  
offer go.*

Sincerely,

*Ben Green*



October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

This letter is in regard to  
Jason Van Dyke. I am asking the  
Court to please consider Jason's  
family and his commitment to the  
City of Chicago and keeping it's citizen's  
safe. Please show mercy.

Sincerely,

Clifford P. Puntis - retired 13078

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I have worked with Jason Van Dyke for several months, and know him to be a very kind, loving man. He is not a danger to society. I would hope that you would consider leniency in his sentencing process.

Thank you, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katelyn Spivack

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please consider a  
lenient sentence in regard to  
Jason Van Dyke. Thank you,

Sincerely,

John Gallegher

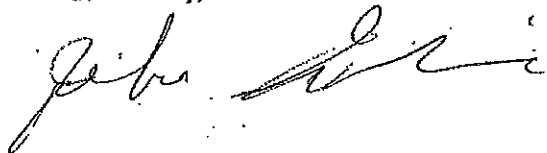
October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

*Please consider a  
lenient sentence in regards to  
Jason Van Dyke. Thank you,*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John [unclear]".


October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am asking for leniency for Jason Van Dyke as a first responder and a citizen of Chicago. I can't imagine what is like for our police officers every day. It is a thankless job and they deserve our support. I live in a Strong Police, Fire, and Union ward where we vote for those who support us. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Martin Doherty  
Local 7

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please take extenuating circumstances  
into consideration when sentencing  
Jason Van Dyke. There but for  
the grace of God - etc.

Sincerely,

Steve Matkovich  
Registered Voter w/ <sup>extensive</sup> extended family

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am asking for your  
consideration and leniency  
in the case of Jason Van Ryke.  
I am a registered voter and  
will be happy to vote in your juror.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA STUBE  
Patricia Stube

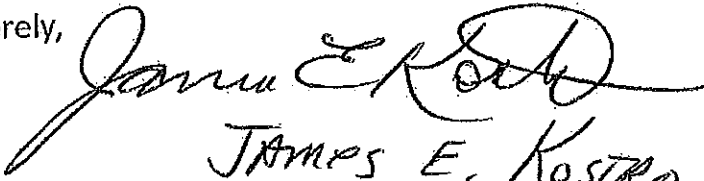
October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please consider leniency for  
OFFICER JASON VAN DYKE. THINGS LOOK  
MUCH DIFFERENT WHEN YOU WALK IN THE  
SHOES OF A POLICEMAN.

Sincerely,

  
JAMES E. KASTRO CPD RETIRED



October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

We live in a time where being a police officer is harder and harder to do. They put themselves out there for us in the line of fire and I believe we need to stand behind them. I can't imagine what it's like out there daily in this crazy world. I know many believe it was excessive but Jason didn't go out there that day, Robing or Killing he was protecting us!

Sincerely,

Rosa Allen  
Rosa Allen

Registered Voter

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

A LITTLE BIT OF LENIENCY WOULD  
BE APPRECIATED IN THE SENTENCING  
OF JASON VAN DYKE

I AM A REGISTERED VOTER.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Kuzynski

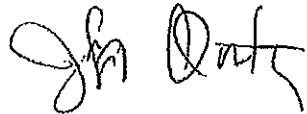
October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

AS A REGISTERED VOTER, I ASK  
FOR YOUR BENEVOLENCE FOR  
JASON VAN DYKE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Van Dyke". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please ask for leniency when  
considering a sentence for  
Jason Van Dyke

Sincerely,

Maigo K Ward

P.S. I am a registered voter

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please consider leniency for  
Jason Van Dyke,

Sincerely,

Raymond Rainey

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please be lenient, since I feel that it was not intentional and he was out there protecting us to be safe. The family really needs him.

Miriam J. Morris

Sincerely,

I am a Registered Voter

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

AS A DEDICATED SUPPORTER OF  
THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND A FORMER  
ARMY VETERAN I WOULD ASK YOU TO  
CONSIDER ALL MITIGATING FACTORS TO  
EXERCISE LENIENCY, MERCY AND (SORRY)  
KINDNESS TOWARDS A CPD OFFICER WHO  
TRIED TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC AND  
PERFORMED COMMENDABLY PRIOR TO  
Sincerely, THAT UNFORTUNATE EVENT.

ALEXANDER NAKHARENKO  
2041 WEST DIVISION ST. STE 100,  
CHICAGO, IL 60622  
773-562-8602  
DEPAUL2005@YKHO.COM.

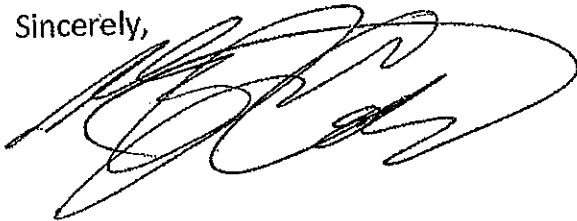
October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Chicago Police Officers have a tough job! We  
need them to keep our city safe. Please sentence  
Officer Van Dyke in a lenient manner. He is an  
angel for our city... a man who keeps Chicago safe.  
He should be home with his family!

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the sender.



October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please show leniency while sentencing Jason Van Dyke. Officer Van Dyke has protected the City of Chicago for a very long time. He was unjustly punished for doing his job. My parents are CPD. My mom worked with Jason. She relied on him to keep her safe. I am begging you to have mercy on Jason and send him home to his family. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shea Carey  
5933 W. 55th St  
Chicago, IL 60638

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am writing to ask Your Honor for leniency for Jason Van Dyke. My mom and Dad are both Chicago Police Officers. I worry about them all the time. My mom worked with Officer Van Dyke, she trusted him to keep her and the City of Chicago safe every day. This conviction has sent a clear message to all law enforcement and all citizens in Chicago that crime will be tolerated. Send a message that you back CPD.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Carey  
5933 W. 55th St  
Chgo Ill 60638

I AM A REGISTERED VOTER

October 12, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I have been working with Jason Van Dyke for the past 4 yrs. Unfortunately you only know the man from your position on the bench. If you had the pleasure to meet Jason and his family you would get to know the real side of his deep & gentle personality. My family and I hope you show mercy on this great guy. Jason needs to be with his outstanding daughters and his beautiful wife, Tiffany.

Sincerely,

Maggie O'Grady

JASON VAN DYKE is a GREAT MAN.  
PLEASE FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO  
CONSIDER THE REASON HE IS IN THIS  
AWFUL SITUATION. HE WAS THE  
LAMB THAT GOT SLATTERED...!!  
"POLITICS"  
"REGISTERED VOTER"

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

PLEASE CONSIDER HIS FAMILY. They need their  
DAD. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'RS' followed by a horizontal line.

11 OCT 18


October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I'VE WORKED WITH JASON VAN DYKE  
AT THE FOP LODGE #7 SINCE HE WAS  
SUSPENDED FOR THIS INCIDENT. I FIND HIM  
AS A HARD WORKING, HONEST, SINCERE FAMILY  
MAN, WHOM IS GOD FEARING, WITHOUT  
PREJUDICE. I PRAY THAT YOU WILL TAKE THE  
ABOVE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN SENTENCING.

Sincerely,

 FOP GIFT SHOP - CHAIRMAN  
THOMAS A. HARTWIG  
RETIRED CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER

October , 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, Il 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

PLEASE HAVE COMPASSION FOR JASON VAN  
DYKE DURING THE SENTENCING PHASE OF  
HIS TRIAL. JASON IS A GOOD MAN WHO  
WAS DOING HIS JOB THE NIGHT IN QUESTION.  
JASON HAS TWO DAUGHTERS THAT NEED HIM  
TO BE THEIR FATHER.

Sincerely,

THOMAS MCDONAGH



FIRST GENERATION IRISH, PARENTS FROM GALWAY  
IRELAND. MEMBER OF ST. ANDREW'S PARISH  
FOR LIFETIME.

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

JASON, IS A VERY GOOD PERSON  
I would like you to please  
GET TO KNOW HIM, AS A PERSON.  
EVERY ONE MAKES MISTAKES IN LIFE  
AND AS LONG AS I HAVE KNOWN HIM  
HE IS A GREAT GUY, HE WOULD GIVE  
HIS SHIRT OFF IS BACK FOR ANYONE  
PLEASE TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION.

Sincerely,

Retired  
P.O. A.E. Hall.

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

PLEASE SHOW MERCY AND COMPASSION  
FOR JASON VAN DYKE & JASON'S FAMILY.

Sincerely,

*Don McQuinn*



October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am writing this letter in regards to the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke. I am begging you to show mercy and please consider his young family that needs him at home.

Sincerely,

David E. Dorken

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am writing this letter in regards  
to the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke.  
I am begging you to show mercy  
and please consider his young  
family that needs him at home.

Sincerely,

Marianne McGuire

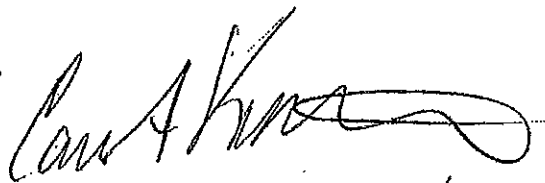
October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please show leniency. Jason is  
NOT a threat to anyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carl A. Kim". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Registered voter.

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please have mercy on Jason Van Dyke  
while sentencing him. My mom and Dad are  
both the Police Officers with Chicago Police.  
My mom worked with Jason and she trusts  
him and depended on him for her safety.  
Please send Mr. Van Dyke home to his Family.

Sincerely,

Kailiy Oboirantz  
5933 W. 55th St.  
Chicago, IL 60638

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please consider officer Van Dykes years of service. There are officers who leave their families every morning not knowing if they will return to their homes at the end of their tours. Officers are people like all of us, who makes the most difficult decisions in a matter of seconds not knowing that it will alter their lives forever.

Sincerely,  
Please have mercy on officer Van Dyke.  
GOD BLESS YOU JUDGE GAUGHAN.  
Citizen of Chicago.

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, Il 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

PLEASE CONSIDER JASON JAN DYKE'S  
COMMITMENT TO THE CITY OF  
CHICAGO, KEEPING CITY SAFE  
~~FOR~~ THROUGHOUT HIS DEDICATED  
CAREER.

Sincerely,

REGISTERED VOTER OF CHAGO

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

First thank you for your service  
and commitment to uphold the  
Law. I hope you can find money  
for Jason and his family in this  
hard time for Chicago and Chicago  
Police

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I as a citizen am asking you  
Judge Gaughan, to show mercy on  
Jason Van Dyke when you are sentencing  
him. Thank you for considering my  
wishes.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen



October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Your HONOR Please Take in consideration  
of the duties of being a police officer. A  
lot of stress on the mind sometimes it  
does cause people to put out character.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen

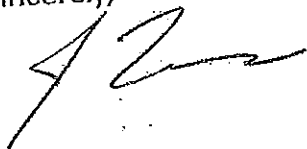
October 19, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am registered voter, and a happy resident  
of the city of Chicago. I believe that Officer  
Van Dyke was a political sacrificial lamb.  
Please show mercy on him in testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'J. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.

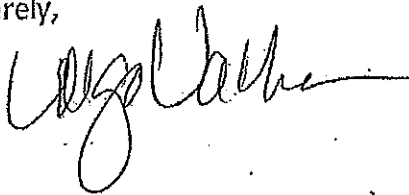
October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

IT IS WITH GREAT RESPECT FOR  
THE POSITION AND POWER YOU HOLD  
THAT I ASK FOR MERCY IN OFC.  
JASON VAN DYKE'S SENTENCE. PLEASE  
CONSIDER HIS SERVICE AND GOOD HE  
DID FOR THIS CITY. PLEASE THINK OF  
HIS FAMILY WHEN YOU SENTENCE HIM.

Sincerely,



October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

As a registered voter in Cook County, I am asking you to please show mercy on Officer Jason Van Dyke and his family at sentencing.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Mueller

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

THIS IS A KIND REQUEST TO SHOW  
MERCY FOR JASON VAN DYKE ON HIS  
UP COMING SENTENCE.

JASON IS A DEDICATED FAMILY MAN AND  
HAS SERVED THE CITIZENS OF CHICAGO HONORABLY.

Sincerely,

LEE DURAN

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please show some mercy on Ofe Van Dyke  
Our family would be greatly appreciated if this  
delicate matter

Sincerely,

JAMES J. Walsh Jr.

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am a REGISTERED VOTER, PLEASE SHOW  
mercy when sentencing OFFICER VAN DYKE. IT  
WOULD be GREATLY APPRECIATED.

Sincerely,



October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

As A Registered Voter, Tax Payer  
I would like to voice My Opinion as to  
the Sentencing of Jason Van Dyke. He was  
A Police officer doing his job and would like  
you to consider a light fair sentence

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen

Tom Noyes



October 18, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

PLEASE USE YOUR HEART AND  
MIND WHEN GIVING OFFICER  
VAN DYKE HIS SENTENCE. TAKE INTO  
CONSIDERATION HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.  
THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the beginning.

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please show mercy on  
Officer Van Dyke. It would  
be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Th. J. Walsh

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please consider the actions of a  
Police Officer on Duty and the actions  
that are taken every day of his career,

Sincerely,

*Chicago*

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please show mercy on the  
sentencing of Jason Van Dyke  
He is a family man and  
deserves it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jay", written in a cursive style.

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

As a registered voter & life long  
resident in the City of Chicago, I  
plead with you to please have  
mercy when handing down the  
sentence of Officer ~~John~~ Van Dyke. Please  
use the same standard that is used  
with all accused with the same crimes  
in Cook County. Thank you!

Sincerely,

M. D'Angelo

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am a Registered Voter and citizen of this  
FINE city. I am ASKING the Court to Show Mercy  
for Jason Van Dike.

Sincerely,

Eusebio Mederos.

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am requesting that you take into consideration that Jason Van Dyke is a father, son, brother to the police and that he was acting in fear for his life on 20 OCT 2014 when he was involved in the Laquan McDonald shooting. I am requesting that you take all considerations when sentencing occurs

Sincerely,  
31 OCT 2018

Best  
P.O. [Signature] see #1427

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, Il 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I HAVE BEEN A POLICE OFFICER FOR 20 YEARS WORKING IN HIGH CRIME AREAS. I HAVE BEEN THROUGH HELL AND BACK SURVIVED MANY INCIDENTS AND SEEN THE WORST OF HUMAN ACTS. I AM THE MOTHER OF THREE CHILDREN, A SON IN THE MILITARY. I HAVE SERVED IN MY PROFESSION WITH DIGNITY AND HONOR. I SACRIFICED MY FAMILY AND SANITY TO SAVE AND PROTECT OTHERS. PAIN IS REAL, FEAR IS REAL AND THE CALLING TO SERVE AND PROTECT OTHERS IS REAL.

I AM NOT ASKING FOR MIRACLES. I ASK YOUR HONOR TO HAVE MERCY ON AN OFFICER THAT HAVE PUT HIS LIFE IN DANGER TO SAVE OTHERS. I KNOW JASON VAN DYKE PERSONALLY, SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, PTSD, MISSING FAMILY FUNCTIONS, CHANGED FOREVER IS WHAT THIS JOB DOES FOR YOU. WE SAVED MANY LIVES W/O REGARDS FOR OURS. INSTINCTIVELY WE WANT TO JUMP IN AND SAVE OTHERS FROM DANGER. MANY, IF NOT ALL HEROIC ACTIONS WERE / ARE NOT EVER RECORDED. I ASK YOUR HONOR TO BE KIND TOWARDS SENTENCING JASON AND HAVE MERCY ON HIM AND HIS FAMILY'S PAIN.

RESPECTFULLY,  
CARMEN KALKOWSKI CPD - 773-744-7771



October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

A POLICE OFFICER EVERYDAY PLACES HIS  
LIFE ON THE LINE. OFFICER'S NOW WILL  
BE HESITANT TO USE DEADLY FORCE.

THE VERDICT HAS BEEN GIVEN.

PLEASE CONSIDER JUD'S PLIGHT ~~IN~~ YOUR  
SENTENCING.

Sincerely, ED O'DONNELL

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please remember all the good  
Jason did as a police officer.

Sincerely,

Patrick O'Donnell


October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan, I HAVE KNOWN JASON FOR TWENTY YEARS AND FOUND HIM TO BE KIND, CONSIDERATE, AND HELPFUL TO ALL. HE IS AN AMAZING PERSON. I HOPE YOU SHOW MORE MERCY THAN THE MEDIA AND THE MOB THAT HAD HIM CONDUCTED BEFORE THE TRIAL. IT'S A SHAME THAT DOING WHAT YOU WERE INSTRUCTED TO DO AND TRYING TO MAKE THE CITY, MEDIA AND MOB SAFE IS HOW A CRIMEN SOCIETY RECEIVES THE POLICE IT SEEKS. GOD HELP THE PEOPLE

Sincerely,

KEN WATT COMMANDER LESTER J. SMITH  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 1910



October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

AS A Fellow Policeman and father of 3 children,  
I AM ASKING THAT YOU USE SOME COMPTION AND  
BE LENIENT IN YOUR SENTENCING OF FORMER  
OFFICER JASON VAN DYKE.

Sincerely,

P.O. S. KUPRIANCZYK

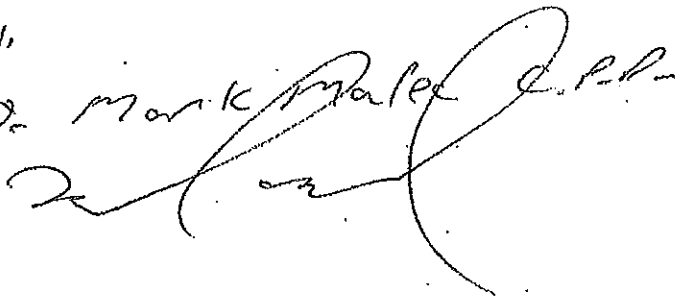
October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am writing this letter to request review regarding the sentencing of officer Jason Van Dyke. Officer Van Dyke has a family that needs him at home and not in prison. This was a situation that any police officer could face any day, unfortunately his decision has ruined his life, and the life of his family, which is truly unfair.

Sincerely,

P.O. Mark Malec P.P.S.  


October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

PLEASE HAVE LENIENCY ON OFFICER VAN DYKE. HE  
HAS A FAMILY INCLUDING HIS TWO DAUGHTERS WHO  
NEED HIM AT HOME. HE MADE A DECISION THAT ALL  
POLICE OFFICERS FEAR, AND IT ULTIMATELY RUINED  
HIS LIFE.

Sincerely,

Paul P. 11463

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan, Being a police officer & a father of two children myself, I ask that you consider & show mercy to Mr. Jason VanDyke. It has to be taking a huge toll on his wife and a lot more on his two children. Mr. VanDyke needs to be with his family because they need each other & he has to live with what happened for the rest of his life, which is punishment enough. Please show mercy.

Sincerely, P.O. Ruben Lomax

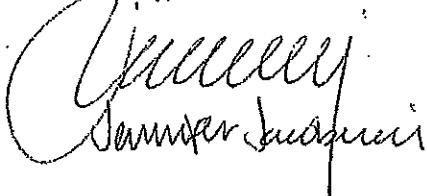
October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

It is a sad turn of events when one cannot have faith in the justice system. With all that has transpired as a result of these events it is obvious that officer VANDYKE was not given a fair trial based on the facts. With that said, his wife and daughters have also felt the consequences of this verdict. With continuous threats to them, their schools, residences & other family members, its going to be a long painful road for all. We are simply asking for leniency when the sentencing takes place and show him & his family some compassion.

Sincerely,

  
Jennifer Jackson



October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

OFFICER VAN DYKE WAS DOING A HARD JOB. HE  
MADE A MISTAKE. LOOK AT HIS CAREER IN TOTAL AND  
IS LIFE IN TOTAL. BE LENIENT IN YOUR DECISION  
PLEASE

Sincerely,



E. Howard

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please consider leniency at the sentencing of Officer Jason Van Dyke. No camera angle can show what Jason saw, felt, or thought. Officer Van Dyke is not a criminal or a murderer. He was a policeman doing his job with no past history of wrongdoing. I've testified before you several times in the past and always found you to be a fair and honest judge. I hope you can forgo public pressure and consider leniency.

Sincerely,

William E. More  
Retired CPD  
Forensic Investigator

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please show leniency or  
no sentence at all!

He was protecting our  
citizens!

Sincerely,

Carl Weingart


October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Respectfully Request For  
Leniency in JASON VANDYKE'S  
SENTENCING

Sincerely,

Joseph Nemcovic  


October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

PLEASE DON'T PLAY POLITICS AND BE FAIR,  
PLEASE SHOW LENIENCY. THANK YOU

Sincerely,

D. DANBEN

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I hope you consider being lenient in the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke. I believe he was in ~~fact~~ in fear of his safety and others at the time of the shooting.

I appreciate any consideration for leniency.

Sincerely,

ANNA B. GALL  
Anna B. Gall

I am a registered voter.

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I have met Jason Von Lipe several  
times & have found him to be a  
very good human being. He would have  
been turned upside down. He has suffered  
a great deal already. Please show him  
mercy in your sentencing. Myself and  
all the voters will ~~be~~ be watching

Sincerely,

Keith Frye MD

October 15, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

On behalf of the mendozA family we would ask for leniency when sentencing our fellow brother in blue. I have 18 yrs on this great job and could honestly say that making decisions little like the one's who do everyday would leave most people standing still. Just try and remember that even good people can make decisions that result in a similar result.

Officer

Mendo

Mendoza

Mendoza

Family

Thank you Judge for taking the time to read this simple but honest message.



October 15, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

UNDER THE TOTALITY OF  
CIRCUMSTANCES PLEASE CONSIDER AN  
APPROPRIATE SENTENCE, THANK YOU.

Sincerely,

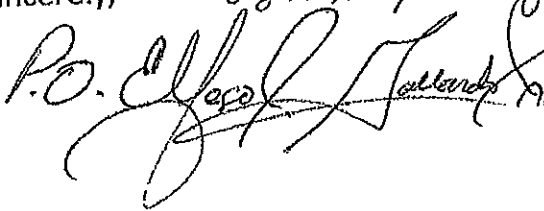
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

In light of the recent verdict concerning Officer Jason Van Dyke, I'd like to take this opportunity to respectfully request that you apply a degree of leniency when sentencing Jason. I do not know Jason personally, nor have I ever worked with him. I understand that the State has presented a case which caused jury members to render a guilty verdict, but at what point does Mr. McDonald assume any responsibility for the behavior he engaged in which caused him to have contact with the police? I am not condoning Jason's actions, but I do not believe he reported to roll call that evening with the enthusiasm to inflict serious injury or death upon any of our constituents. I'm certain the years since the incident, leading to the verdict, have been tumultuous for him and his family. Leniency in sentencing will be instrumental in allowing Jason and his family to begin the process of healing and some degree of restoration.

Sincerely,  
P.O.  #14210

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please consider leniency when  
sentencing Jason Van Dyke

Sincerely, Robert J. Poholic  
(I Am A Registered Voter)

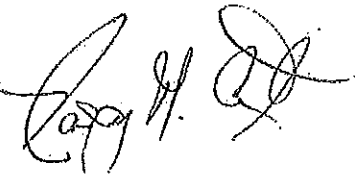
October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THAT YOU  
TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION OF OFFICER VAN DYKE  
SENTENCE WHEN IT COMES TIME TO SENTENCE HIM  
THANK YOU.

Sincerely,



October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I think leniency is in order for Jason Van Dyke because it was not an intentional act on his part. He was doing what he was trained to do in a dangerous situation. We do not know what transpired prior to this incident. I don't think Officer Van Dyke went out that day to purposely shoot somebody, He is there to protect & serve people such as myself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Brewster". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

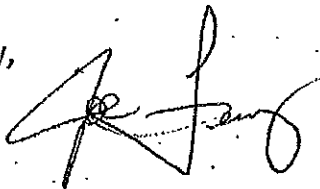
October , 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I do not know Jason Van Dyke, however I truly believe he was sincerely trying to do his job the night he shot LaRon McDonald. I understand he was tried and found guilty by his peers. I only ask that you please take this into consideration and give him a lenient sentencing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. J. [unclear]". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial letter.

October 15 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO REQUEST LENIENCY FOR JASON VAN DYKE. I HAVE ONLY KNOWN JASON THROUGH HIS DUTIES AT FOP BUT HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE A KIND AND CONSIDERATE MAN WHO LOVES HIS WIFE AND KIDS. I HAVE ALSO MET JASON'S WIFE TIFFANY THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT PROCESS AND ASK THAT LENIENCY BE GRANTED IN JASON'S CASE FOR HER WELL BEING AS I KNOW SHE HAS STRUGGLED SINCERELY, TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR TWO DAUGHTERS.  
THANKS FOR CONSIDERING THIS REQUEST.

 #3066

022

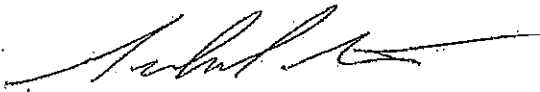
October 15 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

AS YOU DETERMINE A SENTENCE FOR OFFICER  
JASON VAN DYKE, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND HIS WIFE  
AND DAUGHTERS. IN A SPLIT SECOND DECISION ALL OF THEIR  
LIVES HAVE BEEN UPROOTED, REGARDLESS OF MY OPINION  
ON GUILT OR INNOCENCE, I BELIEVE JASON ACTED WITHOUT  
MALICE. I WOULD HOPE YOU CAN FIND IT IN YOUR HEART  
TO PROVIDE JASON AND HIS FAMILY SOME LENIENCY IN  
HIS SENTENCING.

Sincerely,

  
Michael A. METZ



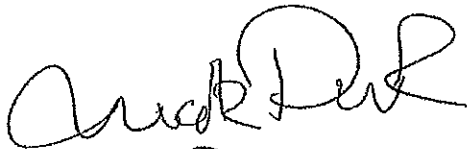
October 15 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Jason Vandyke is a good man. He's  
a loving husband and father. I am writing  
to ask for the consideration of leniency  
in sentencing. Jason is a young man whose  
life is forever changed. I implore to your  
judgement and heart. Thank you.

Sincerely,



citizen of Chicago and Cook County.

TO YOUR HONOR (RE. JASON VAN DYKE)

MY NAME IS ROGER RAYMOND  
AND I AM JASON'S NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR.  
I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO LET  
YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF MAN JASON IS.

I HAVE KNOWN JASON AND TIFFANY  
FOR 14 YEARS. DURING THIS TIME I  
HAVE SEEN JASON AS A KIND, QUIET,  
POLITE AND CONCERNED MAN. HE  
HAS HELPED ME MANY TIMES IN  
THE WINTER WITH THE SNOW AND ICE

I AM A VERY SENIOR CITIZEN 80 YRS  
OLD AND IT'S VERY APPRICIATED. ALL  
OF MY EXPERIENCES WITH THIS  
FINE MAN HAVE BEEN POSITIVE.

I WRITE THIS LETTER TO LET  
YOU KNOW THAT I AM PROUD TO  
BE JASON'S NEIGHBOR. THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR TIME TO READ THIS.

ROGER D. RAYMOND  
6017 S. NORMANDY  
CHICAGO IL. 60638  
773-229-1929

Roger D Raymond

OCT. 17 2018

PLEASE HELP JASON AND  
HIS FAMILY

Your Honor  
RE: Jason Van Dyke

My name is Barbara K. Raymond and I lived next door to Jason and his family for 14 years. I want you to know that Jason is a wonderful neighbor and friend and also is a devoted family man.

Please help Jason and his family for they have always helped my husband and me.

Thank you for taking the time to read my petition.

Barbara K. Raymond  
6017 So. Normandy  
Chicago, IL 60638  
773-229-1829  
Oct. 17, 2018

Dear Honorable Vincent W. Gaughan

I am writing to you in the hopes that you can grant leniency to Jason Dan Dyke. I do indeed come from a police family and I know many people ~~that~~ who come from many backgrounds of ethnic groups and they have all agreed that Jason is a good man. None of us were there that night and we cannot offer an educated guess as to what went through anyone's mind that fateful evening. But we do know that Jason is not the monster being portrayed by some. He is a dedicated family man and he is a respected man in his neighborhood in ~~the~~ Garfield Ridge. Thank you for taking the time to consider all requests of leniency. We put our faith and trust in you.

Thank you -

Emma Dearth  
Chicago Resident

Circuit Court of Cook County  
Judge Vincent Graughan  
2600 S. California  
Chicago, IL 60680  
Room 500

Gianna Ponce de Leon  
5532 S. Nashville Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60638  
RE: Jason Van Dyke

Dear Honorable Judge Vincent Graughan,

My name is Gianna Ponce de Leon. I am close friends with Jason Van Dyke's daughter, Kaitlyn. I know Jason to be a loving father, husband and great friend. He has made a huge impact on my life and as well as his own family. He is such a great person to be around and he is so goofy and funny. Due to the verdict, Jason cannot even hold his own daughter's hands. I've known Jason and his family for 8 years.

I ask that you take heed in your decision and ask you for leniency when deciding the final outcome.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gianna Ponce de Leon

To: The Judge  
Re: Jason Van Dyke

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Van Dyke family. I beg you to please look into your heart and keep his sentence to prison to as little as possible. He is a good person a Christian. He loves his family. His daughters need a father. He is always looked out for the interest of others. I have known him for over 20 years. He has always worked hard in the protection of citizens and never been given a Thankyou for protecting them. I am sorry that the incident happened but he should not be held accountable. Policemen / Firefighters protect us daily yet are not given the respect they deserve. I am sure you are a father please don't take him away from his family. I am requesting as a human being to another please.....

Regards,

Cristal Morris Owens

10-11-18

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan,

Judge Gaughan, I am writing to you to ask that you consider leniency when deciding the fate of my friend Jason Van Dyke. I have had the privilege of knowing Jason for 4 years now. I have only known a hard-working, humble, gentle, funny, kind man. I have learned that we share a mutual love of the Catholic faith. Jason and his family live that faith on a daily basis. They have been active in their parish as I am in mine. I think we both consider our faith to be one of the greatest gifts in our lives. The other gifts that we both share is the strong bond and love of our families. Jason is a wonderful husband to Tiffany. I have seen the mutual respect between them and unwavering commitment to each other. They are a beautiful example of two becoming one for better or worse for the rest of your lives. Jason is always a wonderful father to his girls Kaley and Kaitlyn. He is present in their lives, proud of them, loves them and is doing a wonderful job raising very smart, hard working daughters. I pray that he may continue to be ever present in his young daughter's lives.

I want you to know that Jason poses

no threat to anyone, the world is a better place with him working in it.

I am not one to stand out somewhere public and carry signs, raise my voice, block any roads, disrupt anyone else's lives, but I would love to have my voice be heard. I live a life very much like Jason's. We are hard-working, family oriented, faith-filled, caring people who ask nothing from others. Except now, for my friends. I implore you to see the real Jason Van Dyke and decide on an appropriate sentence for ~~the~~ this good man.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Wars  
3945 W. 105<sup>th</sup> St.  
Chicago, Ill.  
60655



October 12, 2018

Thanks in advance for  
your attention

Sincerely,

Pat Galas  
450794 Glen Dale W  
Yorkville, IL 60560

Your Honor,

I am the wife of a  
retired Chicago policeman  
and the Mom of a Chicago  
firefighter. One source is  
friend of Jason Van Slyke.  
I know Jason as a quiet  
but friendly man whose  
concerns have always  
centered around his home life ---  
his wife and two daughters.

I'm sure you're aware  
of the danger and violence  
that confront our Chicago  
first responders nearly  
every day. I'm hoping  
you will consider those  
victims when sentencing  
Jason. I pray for him!  
and you and all of us!

Honorable Judge Gaughan,

I am writing this in regard to Jason Van Dyke.

First let me tell you a little about myself. I am a wife, mother and grandmother. I am also the proud mother of two Chicago police officers as well as my husband's father in law and brother in law. My two other children are teachers and coaches of children's sports.

I first met Jason when his ordeal began. My encounters with him were always pleasant. He was respectful and kind as I got to know him better I saw what a good father and husband he was. He always talked about his girls and wife.

After I met his wife Tiffany I realized they were like me my husband and many other

forbes. Hard working, family orientated and church going people.

I have come to know Jason as a god fearing man with a heart of gold. We developed a friendship in which we brought them and Taffany into our lives, our friends lives and most important my families life. He is always welcome in my home and my childrens homes. He has been to our homes many times.

When others turned their backs on Jason, I was lucky enough to find a good friend.

Someone asked me to describe Jason in one word. I can not!

Jason is a hardworking police officer who went out everyday to help the people of Chicago. He is a man of faith, a good father, husband and friend. I can not find the

right words to describe the wonderful and kind man that I have come to know and love as my friend.

It am proud to say that Jason Van Dyke is my friend and has come into my life.

Respectfully,  
 Maureen G. Appelo, R.S.

October 23, 2018

Judge Vincent Gaughan  
Illinois Cricuit Court of Cook County  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California, Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois, 60608

Confession: 80 years of Age; Married 17 yrs.; Widowed 34 yrs.;  
Two adopted Children; Guardian -one Special Needs person 34  
yrs; Foster Parent 22 yrs; Cared for all racial and ethnic children;  
Volunteer: St. Vincent de Paul -Assisting the needy and Housing  
Homeless 40 years, All racial and ethnic persons; Homeowner  
and Property Tax Payer 57 yrs. Born and raised Chicago.

Interest: McDonald / Van Dyck Case I am making a judgement call.  
I see one problem that all political administrations .....and  
churches ignore. The breakdown of the family.

Working for DCFS there were two very fine leaders, Denise Kane  
State Inspector General and Atty. Catherine Ryan. both very  
excellent choices for their postions; Both very practicing orthodox  
Catholics, yet! One rule they both instructed me to follow was not  
to mention the parents sexual lifestyle as a problem; I could say,  
"don't smoke; don't use drugs", and other simple helpful  
suggestions, but never their lifestyle as unmarried, sexually  
active persons. (one case: one mother, four fathers of four  
children. )

Do you know, according to the figures I have read in community reports, 75% of black mothers in Chicago, Cook County, are not married, the children are not fatherless, but abandoned. That is a cultural and moral problem. Maybe instructions have changed at DCFS, but I doubt it. Some DCFS and social workers have the same lifestyle, unmarried or divorced with children.

Suicidal bullies: My wake up call was watching a black mother and her son, age about 13, arguing over the way he tied his shoelaces. ( many years ago) It was a gang sign then. The boy obviously placed no value on his life as he dismissed all his mother's warnings about the danger he was placing himself in. By the signs he was giving out and who he hung around with, where he hung out and the dangers he placed himself in. I described him as suicidal, not that he would kill himself, but he might be killed in a gang war did not seem to bother him.

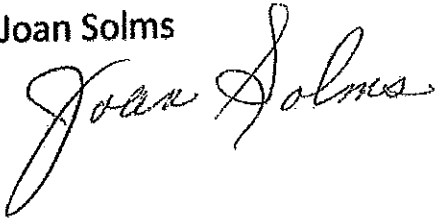
I had two foster children that I would describe in the same manner , worse yet, they were suicidal bullies. They willingly placed themselves in harms way, in fact, sought it out. One girl , one boy, both were white teenagers. McDonald is black, but in my judgement he fits my description of a suicidal bully. He deliberately places himself in harms way because he does not truly value his life. According to what I read, he was raised in a dysfunctional home, motherless and fatherless. Not surprised by this report.

So, who has to deal with the mess we have allowed him to grow up in? The schools and the police. As I watched the trial unfold, I

blamed his family, I blamed our acceptance of a moralless society. These problems have been shoved off onto the hearts, minds and strength of teachers and the police. They are hired to teach and control these suicidal persons and gangs. Parents failures are now their burden. I do not see the elected keepers of government, the laws, and the purse strings , really doing anything about it. I have been watching for decades.

Can you do something about it. Speak to the problem ? Consider this dangerous swamp the teachers and police work in when sentencing Van Dyke. Will it be a better world if his children grow up fatherless? I think it would be a better world to have had McDonald raised in an intact family. We need some strict laws to do this, don't you agree?

Joan Solms

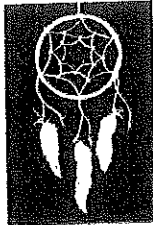
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Solms". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Dear Judge Laughlin,

I am writing to you in regards to Jason Van Dyke, I am asking for Seniency for him. He was a good Police Officer. It is one of the hardest Jobs. Until someone walks in his shoes, they do not have the right to Judge. Please consider his wife + children.

Thank You  
Elizabeth Moran  
Wife of Chgo Police  
Officer + Mother of  
Chgo Police Officer

Nov 2018



Dear Judge Laughan,

Please read this article before you pass sentence on Patrolman Van Dyke. In this day of all the violence on the streets, its hard to know what to do. I dont think the policeman went to work that day with malice intent. Its a tough job and I know because ive been a Chicago Cop for 30 years before I retired. Please have some mercy for him and his family.

Thank you  
Edward J. Collette  
Retired CPD

### Australia: Stabbing attack linked to terrorism

SYDNEY — A knife-wielding man stabbed three people, one fatally, in Australia's second-largest city on Friday in an attack police linked to terrorism.

The attack during the afternoon rush hour brought central Melbourne to a standstill. Hundreds of people watched from be-

hind barricades as police tried to apprehend the attacker.

Police said the man got out of a pickup truck, which then caught fire, and attacked three bystanders with a knife. He also attempted to attack police who arrived on the scene before being fatally shot in

the chest by an officer.

Police said the attacker's vehicle contained several barbecue gas cylinders.

Victoria state police Commissioner Graham Ashton said the suspect, who was originally from Somalia, was known to police and the incident was being treated as terrorism.



Dear Judge Haughon,

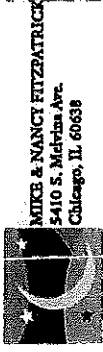
please consider  
 mercy on Jason Van Dyke  
 + his family when sentencing  
 him. Please be lenient  
 on him. He was doing  
 his job + got caught up  
 in the heat of the moment  
 + made a dreadful  
 mistake of judgement.  
 We are all human + we  
 don't know how we would  
 react. We can say

we would never do  
 that, but we don't  
 know how we would  
 react, we could  
 react badly also.

Please consider  
 the plea for him  
 + his family. They  
 have already suffered  
 a great deal.

Thank you

Helen Bugajski



MIKE & NANCY FITZPATRICK  
5410 S. Melvin Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60638

October 20, 2018

Dear Judge Haughan,

I hope it is within your authority and your heart to sentence Officer Jason VanDyke to probation on or about Oct. 31, 2018.

I truly believe the death of Laquan McDonald was a tragedy not a murder.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Sincerely,

Nancy Fitzpatrick

**Paul E. Tomaszewski**

3432 Arden Ave. Brookfield, IL 60413

October 31, 2018

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Ave Room 500  
Chicago, IL 60680

Your Honor:

Having followed the Van Dyke case, and having been a member of the law enforcement community, I have felt deep concerns on this matter, and offered countless prayers over it.

This case is very complex. Here a good officer reacts to a problem on the street and does what he has trained to do over the years. (I personally spent my teenage years in the area of occurrence.) Not being there I could only react to what I seen on news coverage. This is making your decisions difficult at best. We all know that drug infused people are capable of doing the worse possible and that they have no real control of their actions. This individual had to be taken out for the safety of all on the street that night.

There, has not been charges of OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT, in this and as such this matter calls for leniency in sentence. I pray that your heart will guide you in process of sentence.

If you case to contact me, I would be happy to expand on my vIEWS with you.

Thank You for your considerations in this matter

Sincerely,

Paul Tomaszewski

October 29, 2018

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Your Honor,

My name is Kaitlyn Van Dyke and I am writing to you in regards to my father. I am twelve years old and I know about what is happening to my dad. For the last four years my family has had our lives turned upside down because my dad did his job. My parents do not go over all of the details of what happened but I do know that my dad had to shoot someone and that person lost their life. My dad has been a policeman my entire life and I have always been proud to say my dad is a cop when people ask me. I know the difference between right and wrong and am being raised with love and respect for myself and others. I have always been taught the police are good people who are just doing their jobs trying to keep our city safe.

I have been bullied at school about what has happened. Kids come up to me and say that my dad is a murderer. That hurts so much when people say that to me. My dad is not that. I have had nightmares and have trouble sleeping because my dad may have to go away for a long time. I can't concentrate at school because of what is happening to him. My dad loves me and my sister and mom and is a kind person.

I love my dad more than words can say. I do not want my dad to go away for him doing his job. We have already been affected so much. My dad used to love to go out in public with me and my sister and after this happened he doesn't come out with us much. If he does he is always changing how he looks so that no one can recognize him so that we do not get hurt because people do not like what he did. My dad would never let anything happen to us.

We spend as much time together and he takes me to my dance classes and basketball games. He encourages me to try new things and is I enjoy something I am apart of he makes sure that I commit to what I am doing and have fun. He also makes sure that I am a good person and student. We go to church together and pray together. We like to help Sister Maria Paulina in our church. My dad is my everything I want him to see me grow up and do well in school and make him proud. My dad and my family are really hurting and I think that we have hurt enough. I beg of you to think of my sister and I when you make your decision. I need my dad in my life.

Sincerely,

*Kaitlyn Van Dyke*

Kaitlyn Van Dyke

October 22, 2018

Circuit Court of Cook County  
Judge Vincent Gaughan  
2600 S. California Room 500  
Chicago, IL 60680

RE: Jason Van Dyke  
Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I am writing on behalf of Jason Van Dyke. Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Tiffany Van Dyke, I am Jason's wife. We have been together since 2000 and married since 2002. We have two wonderfully bright and beautiful well mannered and respectful daughters together ages 17 and 12. When my husband and I met he was not a Chicago Police Officer. We fell in love and I knew that was a path in life he wanted to take. He has always felt the need to help others. The gift of being able to serve and protect was always something that made him smile. He knew he would make a difference even if it was a small one for someone in the community. The day he graduated the Chicago Police Academy was one of his and my proudest moments together aside from our wedding and birth of our children. We both knew he would be great at his career. He had many opportunities to grow within the department. He not only worked in a few of the districts but also got the chance to work within some units. He knew the life of a police officer was not going to be an easy one but he was up for the challenge, he wanted to make a difference. He also at one point was one of a select few Chicago Police Officers chosen to work for former President Barack Obama's, inaugural security detail when he won his second term.

Jason the human being as I know him and as other should know him: Jason is a very kind gentle soft spoken man. He is compassionate, considerate and courageous. I would also say that he is a very loving warm hearted husband and father. I couldn't imagine myself with anyone else. He is a very loving patient and sympathetic father. He is a rational and sensible person. Jason has a strong belief in his faith as well. He takes joy in knowing he has a relationship with God. He volunteers where needed and loves to help others. Jason is a proud member of the Knights of Columbus which is a catholic organization build up of men of faith and charitable action. Jason loves the small things in life: helping raise his daughters and shaping them into strong confident smart reliable human beings who will make a difference in the world and do better than him and I ever could.

Since the verdict has come out my family has suffered more than I can even put into words. My daughters had their father ripped away from them to possibly never be able to hold each other again. Never to be able to hug each other or even have my husband kiss them goodnight. My children do not sleep right or eat right. They feel guilty when they are bullied at school and he cannot come to their rescue. The day before the verdict came out my husband and I ran to our eldest daughter's side because she was being targeted so that others kids with no true knowledge of the truth could harm her. My husband was acting as he should in those moments a FATHER. My children may never have their father see them hit milestones in their lives such as: Graduations and getting driver's licenses. Also falling in love for the first time. My husband should be there the first time their hearts get broken to pick up the pieces and help them pull through. Then later down the line marriage and grandkids.

For myself I have the possibility of losing my soul mate. My best friend. I have been left to tend to two children on my own. I am a strong women but I never envisioned my life as raising my kids by myself. I want to be able to hold my husband in my arms and kiss him goodnight and grow old together. There are no words to express such a feeling of loss I have.

I sit here knowing that more than one family is forever changed from the tragedy. I will always pray for both of our families as I know Jason will as well. The man that you have seen in the court room is the kind gentle quiet soul that I fell in love with and continue to fall more in love with every day. I realize my husband was charged criminally, but he was convicted by the court of public opinion a long time ago, way before the trial. Because people have such strong opinions as to his guilt it has demonized him and made him a monster in the media and he's had to disguise himself for four years everywhere we go. We're afraid to give anyone our name, our daughters have endured more pain than any child should ever have to face, I can't get a good job, and my husband hasn't been able to get a good job nor will he ever in the future. We feel like our lives have been ruined forever because of a life altering split second decision that my husband had to make. A decision that no one understands unless they have stood in his shoes, but have Monday morning quarterbacked now for four years. Jason will never be a police officer again. Not only Jason, but all of us, have been punished enough. Please find it in your heart to consider the punishment already endured by him that will undoubtedly continue for the rest of his life. There was no malice, ill intent, or hatred on that fateful night of 10-20-14 when my husband was faced with the split second decision to shoot or to be killed himself. Meaning he wouldn't come home to us. And now he can't come home to us because he believed he was making the right choice that night. What is wrong with this picture? Some may consider what he did to be a mistake, and that may be what the jury thought, but to make it a criminal act is just wrong on so many levels. It should have been a police discipline issue.

Respectfully,

  
Tiffany Van Dyke

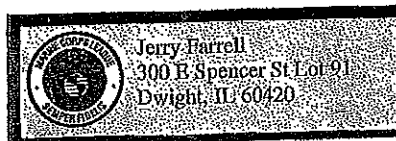
October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

DAN DYKE WAS AFRAID, LIKE  
ME + YOU WERE. PLEASE DON'T BURY  
HIM. Jerry Farrell

M/315 1ST MAR DIV  
Sincerely, I Corps, QUANG NAM  
PROV., Charlie Ridge, ARIZONA  
Territory, Que Son Mountains.  
USMC 1970



October 18, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave., Rm. 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

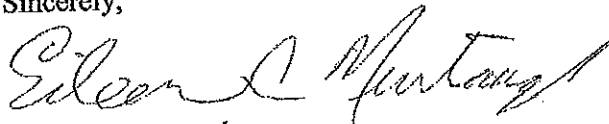
I am writing asking for leniency in your sentence of defendant Jason Van Dyke.

Something that struck me is that the defendant worked a 4 hour part time job at Walmart on the date of this incident, presumably earning minimum wage or slightly more.

The defendant was not out to harm or kill on the night of this tragic incident. He was trying to protect Chicagoans as he was trained, provide for his family, and return home to his family at the end of his shift.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen C. Murtaugh". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Eileen C. Murtaugh



October 6, 2018

Judge Vince Gaughan  
2600 South California Ave, Rm 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

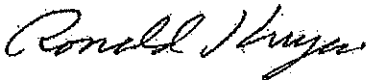
Subject: Officer Jason Van Dyke

We support Officer Van Dyke as we feel it is very difficult to be a police officer in Chicago dealing with offenders like Laquan McDonald. Offenders high on drugs, carrying weapons, and disobeying police orders are a threat not only to the police but to the citizens of the city.

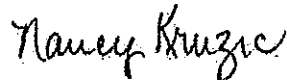
We request you take all of this into consideration at sentencing and be as lenient as possible. This was Officer Van Dyke's first shooting and his concern for himself, his fellow officers, and public safety needs to be respected. Actually living out the situation should not be compared to a video that does not show the thought process of someone in immediate danger. It is always easy to second guess an event that is over. Much damage can be done by a person who is high on PCP and carrying a knife. There is only an instant when a policeman must make a decision or he may be the one lying dead in the street.

We were residents of Chicago until April of this year. Due to increased crime, poor treatment of the police, and other reasons, we have relocated to Nevada.

Sincerely,



Ron Kruzic



Nancy Kruzic

19 October 2018

To: The Honorable Judge Vincent M. Gaughan

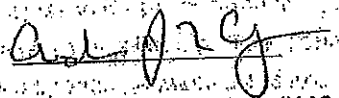
Your Honor,

My name is Andrew McGlynn, I am a Sergeant with the Chicago Police Department. I have been a police officer for a little over 19 years. The reason I am writing to you is to request leniency in the sentencing of Officer Jason Van Dyke.

I came on the job a couple years before Jason did. I had the pleasure of working a few nights with Jason when he was new on the job on 1<sup>st</sup> watch (midnights) back in the old 009<sup>th</sup> District at 35<sup>th</sup> & Lowe. The impression I took from spending approximately 24 hours in squad cars with Jason was that he was no different than me. He is not a racist, nor is he a murderer. He is a regular guy who went to work to provide for his family. After the few nights we worked together we went our separate ways. I made the tactical team soon after and ultimately was promoted to Sergeant. Jason went to the Targeted Response Unit and later to the 1<sup>st</sup> watch in the 008<sup>th</sup> District. I have run into Jason a few times in the last 15 years, a couple times on the street where we exchanged greetings and Jason talked about how proud he was of his daughters or how busy life is with the side jobs and the kids activities to which I responded similarly. The last time I saw Jason was when he was working as a janitor/handyman in the basement of the FOP building while awaiting trial. At this point I could see he was a beaten man. It looked as if he hadn't slept in months and all I could muster up to say was that I was praying for him & I hope things work out for the best. In my opinion, he has served a very rough sentence already between his regret and having to watch what his family has gone through over the last 4 years. I won't get into his actions on the night in question, but I will say that I can assure you that he did not leave his house intending to hurt anyone, his actions were forced by a young man who did leave his house with no good intentions. A young man who was under the influence of narcotics, who had been arrested 26 times, who would not obey lawful police orders to drop a knife dragged Jason into the situation he now deals with.

In closing, Your Honor, I ask that you have mercy on Jason and the Van Dyke family with the most lenient sentence possible. This man will obviously will never be a police officer or carry a weapon again. He has no criminal background. Please do not make his family suffer anymore than they have. Jason was victimized by the Chicago Police Department. I went through the academy a little before Jason and the mantras of "shoot until the threat is eliminated" and "better to be judged by 12 than carried by 6" were beaten into our heads. The poor training we received ultimately bit him. Please, Your Honor let this man and his family find peace and attempt to reassemble their lives as best as they can.

Sincerely,



Sgt. Andrew J. McGlynn #1134

Chicago Police Department

October 18, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan

Leighton Criminal Court

2600 S. California Ave. Rm, 500

Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

The purpose and intent of this letter is to request leniency for sentencing on behalf of Officer Jason Van Dyke. Officer Van Dyke is devoted husband and loving father, who was brave enough to choose the career of an officer of the law. He was put into a difficult life threatening situation and it is hard to imagine the split second decisions that our officers have to make every day to keep safe. I believe Officer Van Dyke had no ill will as he got ready for work that night, said good bye to his family and headed in. Officer Van Dyke was vilified for just doing his job in the media before he even walked through the doors of the courtroom, please take this into consideration. Our Officers are constantly put into situations that are highly dangerous and they have to make choices that are life changing in a matter of mere seconds, few would want to walk in their shoes. Instead of supporting the officers a majority of society criticize and ridicule them without trying to see things from their point of view. Again please take into consideration the strenuous situations and find some kind of balance.

Sincerely,

Jessica Gee

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughn  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Re: Jason Van Dyke

Honorable Vincent Gaughn,

This letter is to request leniency when considering Jason Van Dyke's sentence. I believe that the day of the shooting Jason left his home like any other day with the intent of protecting the citizens of Chicago. Our police women and men put their lives on the line for us every day. They are trained to serve and protect. I truly believe in Jason's heart and mind he was doing just that on that day. I am sympathetic to the family of the man that was killed but I also believe this would have been avoided if he had listened and did what was asked of him by the police.

It is a sad day for the citizens of Chicago that our police no longer receive the respect they deserve. People are very ready to take photos and judge but they are not in the shoes of these men and women. The media and protestors have used Jason Van Dyke as a scape goat to get their point across. The point that should be sent is respect and listen to the police officers and these situations will be avoided.

Sincerely,

  
Joan Lukasik

October 15, 2018

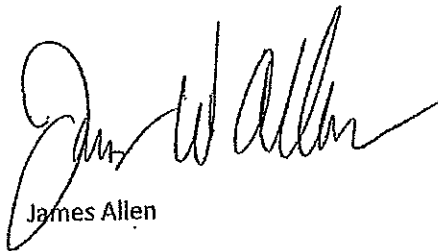
The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Ave., Room 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Honorable Sir,

I am a voter, a civil servant and a human being. I am urging you to apply the same standards to Officer Jason Van Dyke as you would to any first-time offender that appears before you. It is within your purview to sentence this Officer to supervision on the count of Second Degree Murder, as the likelihood of recidivism is so remote. It is also within your discretion to combine all 16 counts of aggravated battery into one count, even though the jury's verdict is contradictory. I have never seen a single act broken into so many pieces, even in such a politically and a racially motivated prosecution.

I also ask you to change the date of the sentencing. The unbelievable danger that a Halloween sentencing presents to the members of the Chicago Police Department and the citizens of Chicago would be exponentially increased by having potential protesters and common citizens masked. The utter chaos of a large scale protest combined with standard trick-o-treaters is a recipe for tragedy that is easily avoidable.

Thank you for your consideration,



James Allen

October 31, 2018

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Your Honor,

My name is Robert Flores; my relationship to the Van Dyke family is I'm the eldest's daughter's boyfriend. For the past two years I've come to know the Van Dyke family dearly. The first time I met Mr. Van Dyke I was very nervously waiting for him to come home. When Mr. Van Dyke walked into the house, he greeted me with a smile and handshake along with a joke that made me laugh. From that point on he has become a very important figure in my life, becoming another father figure to me. He welcomed me over for dinner all the time and made sure there was always room for me. At dinner he would make the entire family laugh whether it was through telling jokes stories or talking about his day at work. He also made it a point to include me in all their family events from that point on. Even when I tested his patience he forgave me for my wrong doing and made sure I was okay. He was always there to talk to me, even more than my own-blood father. Continuously being around this family I've witnessed how amazing of a job Mr. and Mrs. Van Dyke raised their two beautiful daughters Kaylee and Kaitlyn. Together as a team, they have taught them right from wrong, to show compassion and forgiveness no matter how bad someone hurts you, and to respect and love one another. Given the circumstances he was under Jason Van Dyke, in my eyes, is the strongest man I have ever met. He always placed others before himself, especially when it came to his family. When they had bad days or faced difficulty he encouraged them to never lose hope and to never give up. To this very day I see him as the person that never gave up in his darkest times cared for and loved his family more than anything in this world, also welcomed me into his family like I was his own. As many times as I could say thank you to him, I will never be able to thank him enough for everything he has done for me. You put his wife, two daughters, and the rest of his family through so much pain, all I ask now is that you show leniency, and let their suffering end as early as possible.

Respectfully,

Robert Flores

The Honorable Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Avenue, Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Dear Judge Vincent Gaughan,

My name is Keith A. Thompson II, I am Jason Vandykes' brother-in-law. I have known Jason for over 13 years and throughout that time I've gone from being an only child to claiming Jason as my brother. Jason has two amazing daughters that are almost the same age and my two daughters. They have grown closer over time which has only strengthened our relationship. Jason loves to provide for his family and his only desire is to keep them happy and taken care of. Jason played a big role in servicing his community and strived to make Chicago a safer place for everyone. Now, he's lost almost everything he worked so hard to obtain in the blink of an eye.

Your Honor, when taking the time to decide Jason's fate I ask you to consider everything that he has lost, everything him and his family have gone through and will be going through. My brother is now a convicted felon. Due to this everything in his life will become extremely more difficult and his family has to bear the weight of this. I ask you, your Honor, to grant him probation or the minimum sentencing. If Jason goes to prison it will have a tragic outcome for his immediate family, who will lose everything they have. Jason has lost family, friends and co-workers due to the circumstances surrounding this trial. He avoids going out in public, worries about his wife and kids safety as well as the rest of our family. Please allow Jason to get back to his family as soon as possible. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

God bless,

Keith A. Thompson

October 29, 2018

Honorable Vincent Gaughan  
Cook County, Circuit Judge  
2650 S. California Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608

RE: Jason Van Dyke

Dear Judge Gaughan,

My name is Stephanie Mongardo, and I am a Project Manager for Prime Electrical and Exhibition Services. I am married to my best friend of 19 years; my husband Joseph Mongardo and we share two incredibly smart and beautiful daughters together. We live in a tight knit community where everyone is treated like family - I also have had the privilege of living 2 doors away from some of the greatest people that I've had the honor to know.

I am writing to you on behalf of one of my greatest friends, Jason Van Dyke. Jason's wife Tiffany is my best friend, which made Jason my friend by default. I have known Jason for 12 years now, and I know what type of person he is. The person that was depicted during the trial I do not know, nor have I ever met, because that man does not exist. Over the course of 12 years, I have celebrated every milestone that's been filled with happiness during their highs and I've cried with them during their lows. Jason is such a sweet and loving old soul. I have had many, many conversations with Jason and there were a million reasons that made him smile. But what filled his heart and made him the amazing, selfless man that he is today is his belief in God, his wife, their 2 beautiful daughters, Kailey and Kaitlyn, his family/friends and becoming a Chicago Police Officer. When he put that uniform on day after day, he was proud man. He believed that God chose him to become a public servant and to make a difference in people's lives. That uniform represented everything he was and still is to this day; he is a man of integrity, strength, courage, honor and bravery. A uniform does not make a policeman - the heart for the job, that is often very thankless, does. It's waking up everyday to be the best version of yourself and that is what Jason Van Dyke has lived by.

Your honor, the man who was once so proud of wearing the Chicago Police Department uniform has now lost his purpose. As he sits confined in a cell as a broken man, he can only see his children and wife from behind a glass window. A man who was once the protector of his family is now unable to fulfill his lifetime role as a husband and a doting father. His life that he has worked so hard for, his dreams that were once within reach, have now been shattered by broken hearts for doing a job that he was trained to do. Jason has suffered, your honor. As you know, this is not only Jason's first conviction, but his first offense. Given his otherwise decorated record, as well as his close ties to his family, friends and community, I write this letter pleading that you find it within your heart to impose a lesser sentence.

Respectfully,

Stephanie Mongardo



18 November 2018

Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan, Circuit Judge  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave., Rm. 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan;

I am writing to you on behalf of Jason Van Dyke. I have known this young man since birth, watching him grow into a fine young man, as a husband and father, as he pursued his dream of being a Chicago police officer, dedicated to what his oath meant to him and the people he hoped to protect.

I have struggled in the past with his profession, hearing how difficult his job could be and, at times, how frightening. He worked in a very difficult area of the city, putting up with abusive treatment from those he strove to protect and, once in a while, a thank you was extended, making him feel like he was doing the right thing. I was often amazed at his resilience through it all, always going back, never knowing what he would encounter the next day, one day in riot gear, the next walking a beat, but never second guessing his choice to be a police officer.

I can only speak of the Jason I know, a dedicated father to his two daughters who look up to him as their Dad for love and guidance. He has always been an engaged parent, active in their lives and guiding them in his faith in God. He is a good husband who believes in providing for his family and extending his care and help to his parents. I am proud to call Jason my nephew and Godson. My sons are proud to be his cousins. Nothing has changed; we will always be proud to be his family.

Sincerely,



Ellen Shelhamer

2018.October.23rd

Honorable Judge, Vincent Gaughan,  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Ave, Rm 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Your Honor,

My name is John Creedon, I'm writing to you regarding the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke and am asking you for leniency. I have known Jason for many years. In that time I have come to be friends with a soft spoken, committed family man. He was always considerate of others and had a wry sense of humor. He is a strong Catholic, dedicated to good works, among them, Assistance to Mentally Challenged Children. He also happened to be a Chicago Police Officer and though he did not often talk about work, he was proud to be an Officer and to serve the community.

It was with grave concern that I heard the news of the verdict. Concern for Jason, a good man, a dedicated father and husband. Concern for his daughters and for Tiffany, their mother and the wife he loves. Concern for the community Jason was happy to serve. Concern for those who now may question their commitment to serve the communities.

When camping with a group of fellas some years back, it had become very cold out, and it was announced that the dishes had to be washed. Nobody was volunteering. Jason stepped up and washed the dishes for the camp. Quietly. No big show. It was about 35 degrees out. His hands were blue. It may seem insignificant, but it struck me at the time that that is what service to others is about. And he did it naturally. It is a fundamental element of his character. Jason is a giving man that cares for others, and his community. He is always prompt with a hand shake and warm in welcoming. Jason is someone who will listen without reproach, yet with a sympathetic ear. He buys Girl Scout cookies from our daughter and Pancake Breakfast ticket's to our son's Boy Scout Fundraiser, whether he can attend or not. We have shared Holiday meals together and exchanged good hearted ribbing. He is a family man that I trust the lives and safety of my daughter and son and wife to.

Your Honor,

I ask you for leniency in this case. You are welcome to contact me.

God bless you and thank you for your consideration in this matter

Respectfully Yours,  
John Creedon



3426 Arden, Brookfield IL., 60513  
708.307.2697

October 28, 2018

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I am writing on behalf of my son, Jason Van Dyke.

My son was proud of being a Police Officer, working some of the toughest neighborhoods in Chicago. I always knew he would be the best he could be. From his very first job working in a local store, stocking shelves and doing whatever was asked of him, he gave it his all.

Jason was always a very caring individual. This showed at a very young age. He knew when someone was sad or hurt and was extremely thoughtful. I know in his position as a police officer he was the same. He supported his fellow officers and was proud to live and serve the city.

Jason is a family man who loves and adores his family. His pride in his daughters shines as he listens to them recount their day. Nothing makes him happier.

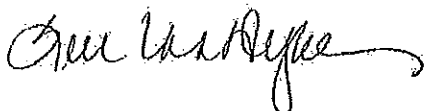
He is a believer. A believer in God, in truth, in justice. I can't imagine the sacrifices men and women who vow to serve and protect go through every day. My heart breaks thinking of every individual weighing this responsibility when they start their day.

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrew 13:5)

I think about this often – every moment of every day. My joy suffers, but I know my son. He is a good man with a good heart.

I ask for your mercy.

Respectfully,



Sue Van Dyke

October 20, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan

Leighton Criminal Court

2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500

Chicago Ill. 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I have only come to know Jason VanDyke since he was involved in the shooting of Laquan McDonald. Since the shooting I have seen or spoke with Jason almost every day. I have also come to know his family. Over the past four years I had the opportunity to interact with the man and his family and nothing is more valuable to him than the well being of his family.

During the past four years I have laughed with Jason and I have cried with him. He is deeply religious and tries his best to lead a good Christian life. The man I know is not a racist, not a murderer and definitely is a good man. He makes sure his daughters get off to school every day he tells them how much he loves them. He loves his wife and to watch them interact is a joy. His mother and father are his life. He goes takes his family to mass every week.

We will probably never know what truly happened that night and for whatever reason these two men's lives intersected. I can only tell you what I tell everyone who asks me about Jason. If you had the opportunity I had to really know him you would say as I do. No way, the man I know could have done this but we all know he did. The last thing I will say is as Jason was taken into custody I watched his father standing there watching as tears rolled down his face. I thought that if Laquan McDonald had a man like that in his life what a difference it would have made.

I would ask you to take all the good he has done and factor it to your decision. May justice be tempered with mercy.

Sincerely,



Greg Bella

Recording Secretary FOP

October 21, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court Building  
2600 S. California Ave., Rm. 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

My name is Dean Angelo Jr., I am a current Chicago Police Detective, the son of retired Detective and former FOP President Dean Angelo Sr., the grandson of the late Detective Patrick Angelo Sr., and the older brother of Police Officer Amanda Angelo. I come from a long lineage of individuals who have chosen to take up this noble profession and put our lives on the line for the safety of others. My family and I have always viewed this profession as a vocation, a calling if you will. During my 11 years as a Police Officer, I have come to understand that it truly takes special individuals to dedicate their lives to a profession that is, at times, more trying than most any other, outside of military service.

I am writing this letter on behalf of Police Officer Jason Van Dyke. I sit here and attempt to write a letter on behalf of an individual who has been vilified and demonized over the last several years by the media and others. These people have no other knowledge of the man outside of a mug shot, hastily taken newspaper photographs, or a grainy video snippet. Understanding this disconnect, I start to focus on the humanity, personality, and general good nature of the individual that I have come to know personally over that same amount of time. As I endeavor to define for you the person that is Officer Jason Van Dyke, I am reminded of a quotation I read in a Loyola University classical studies class years ago. The quote is attributed to the Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius; "A person's worth is measured by the worth of what he values."

I first came to meet Jason Van Dyke on a cold and rainy day in November of 2015. I was an elected Trustee on the FOP Board at the time. Myself, my father, and several other FOP Representatives drove to 26<sup>th</sup> and California to help escort Jason from Cook County Jail when he was granted bond. In addition to us, were Jason's father, some family friends, Jason's co-workers, and some retired Chicago Police Officers. At that time, this was already a very high profile case and we were met with some resistance while trying to get Jason to his car. His family and co-workers were there for him that night, just as he had been for them during their times of need. For all the times he went to help out fellow Officers when they called for help over the radio, his call for help that night was answered by those same men and women.

Shortly after being released, Jason was brought on the staff at the Fraternal Order of Police. It had come to our attention that Jason's wife was not able to keep her business open due to violent threats made against her and her customers. This put his family in financial difficulties. The job we were able to offer him was not on the same level of that of a Police Officer, but Jason gladly accepted it and began to work extremely hard to provide for his family. It was also during his time working for the FOP that others and myself began to see the amazing person that Jason Van Dyke is. He easily took to the other staff and the FOP Board. His dry sense of humor always lifted the mood in the office. His ability to maintain a wonderful disposition and positive outlook during an extremely difficult time in his life was an inspiration to all who met him.

Jason Van Dyke spent many years faithfully serving the citizens of Chicago as a Police officer. To devalue all of these years of Police work based on one incident would be a disservice to Officer Van

Dyke and all of the countless people he helped throughout his career. Officer Van Dyke placed the safety of others over his own, spent countless hours and holidays away from his family to serve this city, and did so for 14 years. It is my belief that Jason shared the same view of this profession as I do. That view being that the work of a Police Officer is a calling. His dedication to service during that time speaks volumes on the value Officer Van Dyke placed on making this city a safer place for its citizens and should not be disregarded.

Jason is a regular attendee at Mass, and an active participant at his local church. Jason is also enrolled as a Knight of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus are a Catholic men's organization, which conduct various works of charity throughout the community. Being a member of this organization is to be a man who puts value on faith and charity. As a member of this organization, especially throughout this trying time, Jason always displayed these values and demonstrated that he truly is a selfless person and a man of great faith.

The value Jason places on family is undeniable. During this ordeal, Jason has placed the safety and well being of his wife and daughters first. He and his family have received numerous threats of violence against them. Jason has maintained his role as the protector, as he had as a Police Officer, by offering a feeling of safety and steadfastness to his children and wife. The action he has taken to provide for the financial and physical security for his family can only be described as herculean.

These values, taken as a whole, do not lend to the unfair image portrayed across this city. These values do, however, accurately depict Jason's worth as a person, a coworker, a friend, a husband, and a father. These values exemplify a person who is worthy of the leniency of this court and sentencing that reflects his worth to his colleagues, friends, and most importantly, his family.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

  
Dean C. Angelo, Jr.

October 21, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court Building  
2600 S. California Ave., Rm. 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

The initial draft of my letter in support of Officer Jason Van Dyke wound up turning into an eight-page composition. It contained my mention of the Angelo Family's nearly 90 years of multi-generational service to the city of Chicago as members of the Chicago Police Department. My original letter also addressed the overwhelming lack of respect Law Enforcement Officers have faced for several years now. There was at least a paragraph or three that dealt with the type of person who makes the life-altering decision to become a Police Officer and how that decision drastically changes her/his opinion of society, their physical and emotional self and especially their family life. The letter I was going to write also caused me to experience an overwhelming amount of stress as I tried to remain focused in my attempt to offer the strongest request possible on behalf of Officer Jason Van Dyke. But this is not that letter.

Near the closing of my original work, everything changed. My reasoning, my focus and my overall purpose shifted to a more basic approach on how to best impact your decision-making when it came to Officer Jason Van Dyke. Once the video of this shooting was released, I personally had to answer an avalanche of questions posed to me from dozens of reporters representing nearly every media outlet in existence. The questions ranged from the shooting itself, to the amount of shots fired, to Officer Van Dyke the person, to questions about the FOP Contract and the list goes on and on. Your Honor, if you would allow me and for the first time, I would like to use this letter to ask a few questions of my own.

The media, politicians and even the prosecuting attorneys in this case all saw the same video and all concluded that "Laquan McDonald was shot as he was walking away from Officer Van Dyke". This narrative is as wrong as the narrative that Michael Brown had his hands up when Fergusson, Missouri Officer Darren Wilson was forced to fire his weapon. Your Honor saw that video. Let me ask a question. When someone is walking away from you, do you not see that person's back? Do you not see at least the rear shoulders, the back of the head? Would you not, ever so slightly, at least see some part of that person's posterior? Let me ask a follow-up to what could only be an affirmative answer; did Officer Van Dyke ever see the back, rear shoulder(s), or any of the posterior of Laquan McDonald immediately prior to the shooting? Allow me to take another liberty of knowing the only answer you can offer me. No.

Let us move to my next question, also dealing with the video.. From the day of his initial bond hearing and still today, I have said that Laquan McDonald's very last step forward moves toward Officers Walsh and Van Dyke. If you would please watch the video one more time, but this time focus only on Laquan McDonald's right foot. If you do Sir, you will only see what any unbiased eye sees, which is the last step McDonald takes before Officer Van Dyke begins to fire moves from right to left. Is the movement of the right foot a slight movement? Yes, it is ever so slight, but your Honor that right foot absolutely moves from right to left and toward the position of Officers Walsh and Van Dyke. This is exactly what both testified to seeing from their vantage point in open court.

October 21, 2018

To my next question. This time dealing with evidence that was unrefuted and actually agreed upon by both sides; the prosecution team, the defense team, the prosecution's medical examiner expert witness, the defense's medical examiner expert witness and everyone else that testified to the initial shots that struck McDonald. Were we not informed by everyone in your courtroom that shot No 1 struck McDonald's upper left chest area and that Shot No. 2 struck his front left neck/shoulder area? Therefore, my next question deals with what we know to be agreed upon evidence. Does not this 'agreed upon' evidence also prove that McDonald is facing these two Officers and furthermore that this person is in no way humanly possible, walking away from them? I must once again assume that the only truthful and unbiased answer is that yes, this person is at minimum, squaring off towards the shooting Officer. It is absurd for anyone to believe someone can suffer these types of wounds while walking away from the shooting Officer.

Let us summarize what we can agree on thus far.

1. Laquan McDonald was not walking away from Officers Walsh and Van Dyke, as clearly demonstrated in the video.
2. Laquan McDonald's last step of his right foot moves from right to left, which is a step towards the direction of Officers Walsh and Van Dyke.
3. The first and second shots fired by Officer Van Dyke strike the front left chest and front left neck/shoulder areas of Laquan McDonald, further proving McDonald was facing towards, or squaring off in the direction of Officers Walsh and Van Dyke.

These three points change the commonly shared media, political and prosecutorial narratives, do they not? Once again, can we not agree that yes, the three points we've shown to be accurate do not meet the public's perception and improperly accepted narrative. Let us not forget the Ferguson, Missouri lie that was shared around the world; "Hands up, Don't Shoot". We know that never happened either.

We now know that the right foot moves from right to left and that shoulders were squaring towards the Officers before the shooting took place. Let me ask you to go back to the video once more. We need to look at the weapon, specifically where the weapon was immediately prior to the shooting. Once more I must ask that you focus your attention to the last frames immediately prior to the start of the shots being fired. But this time please move your focus from the right foot to the right arm. All the while he is walking south on Pulaski, after McDonald removes the knife from his pocket and after he flips the blade into the locked position, McDonald's right arm begins to swing back and forth. These movements are clearly depicted in the video. The right arm is readily visible as he moves south on Pulaski, all the while closing the distance between him and Officers Walsh and Van Dyke. Sir, please continue to watch that right arm. Watch that right arm up to the very last frames prior to the shots being fired and freeze it. Allow me to ask my next question now. Where is the right arm? Can you see it? I know I couldn't see it. If we can no longer see that right arm from our back view, where is it? Where does his right hand, which is holding the knife, go? If the right arm is not visible from the back view, where is it? The right arm, the right hand holding the knife and the threat has moved from his right side, to the front of McDonald's body, and out of our view. Just as Officers Walsh and Van Dyke testified in court and exactly when the shots began to be fired.



October 21, 2018,

Now let us re-summarize what we can agree on thus far.

1. Laquan McDonald was not walking away from Officers Walsh and Van Dyke, as clearly demonstrated in the video.
2. Laquan McDonald's last step of his right foot moves from right to left, which is a step towards the direction of Officers Walsh and Van Dyke.
3. The first and second shots fired by Officer Van Dyke strike the front left chest and front left neck/shoulder areas of Laquan McDonald, further proving McDonald was facing towards, or squaring off in the direction of Officers Walsh and Van Dyke.
4. While holding a knife in his right hand with the blade in a locked position, McDonald's right arm disappears from view as we watch the scene develop from the back of McDonald. This now leaves us with the absolute knowledge that the right arm holding a knife with a blade in the locked position moves to the front of McDonald's body and in plain view of Officers Walsh and Van Dyke; all of which occurred immediately prior to any shots being fired.

Your Honor I cannot explain why the information I've shared in this letter wasn't shared to the jury. I am not an attorney, nor would I second guess anything Officer Van Dyke's defense team did or didn't do. I am a long on the tooth son of a Detective, a Detective myself, a Detective Trainer and an Educator. I tend to look at things far too long and way too critical. Some might say I am a bit obsessive, even compulsive. Maybe I am. Maybe I am not. But I do know that I look at things differently and I do know that Officer Jason Van Dyke did not murder Laquan McDonald. He did take his life and Officer Van Dyke will face the Creator with that on his ledger. That is a for certain Sir. I also know that the video is an emotional video. It is a silent movie that shocks the viewer no matter the viewer's background. I believe that is something else we can agree on.

I strongly believe the jury was moved by the emotion of the video and that their emotion played a role in their conviction of Officer Van Dyke. How could they not have been coaxed by the emotions of the video? They were all civilians. They don't see what you and I have seen. They don't deal with people that you and I have dealt with, nor should they. We chose our careers, they chose theirs. Those of us 'in the field' see things differently, which is why I will always wonder what your verdict would have been. A verdict based on the law, not emotion. I guess I will never know the answer to that.

Please allow me one series of questions. Your Honor, I put these questions to everyone who asks me about the innocence of an Officer who fired 16 shots from his service weapon into a person that was prone for the greater part of the incident. My questions to them are as follows. If Officer Van Dyke only fired twice, with shot No. 1 and shot No. 2 still striking Laquan McDonald in the upper left chest and upper left neck/shoulder areas, still resulting in McDonald's death; should Officer Van Dyke have been charged with a crime? If he only fired twice, would this still be such an emotionally charged incident? I also ask, if Officer Van Dyke only fired twice, would you have convicted him? Would he be going to prison if he only fired twice? When everyone answers 'No' to each of these questions (and they do answer 'No'), I have a question (or two) left that I put to them.

Question: If you wouldn't charge, convict or send him to prison if he only fired twice, was he justified to shoot?

Answer: Yes, sure he was.

October 21, 2018.

Question: So, your issue is that he fired 16 times, right?

Answer: Exactly, he fired too many times.

Writing letters on behalf of Police Officers is something I have been involved in for quite a long time. However, compared to the years of writing academic letters of endorsement or letters of career advancement; this letter certainly is like no other. It is my most sincere hope that the words I chose accurately hit their intended marks because this situation does not deal with entrance into graduate school or an assignment to a specialized unit, this letter deals with a good man's freedom and his family.

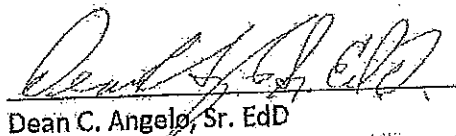
You Honor, please, when you consider the issue in front of you, take a moment to consider one final issue. Did Laquan McDonald have a death wish that evening? *Suicide by cop* is a real thing and it happens more than reported. Why did he remove that knife from his pocket, brandish it and lock open the blade in such a determined manner? And why did he do it in front of so many Police Officers? Is that normal behavior? Everyone was ordering him drop the knife for quite some time and he all of a sudden, he decided this is a good time to become more aggressive? Was he hoping someone would 'take him out'? Had he had enough of 'couch surfing', jumping from sleeping at friends' homes, to sleeping on the streets, maybe sleeping on the El Trains? Was he exhausted of riding the highs and lows of drug use, both legal and illegal? We know he hadn't been taking his prescribed meds, but that he was on PCP when he died? Was he in his right mind on Pulaski? Had he come to the point in his life where he knew he was going back to juvenile detention and that was the last place on Earth he wanted to go back to. We learned he didn't like it there and regularly fought other detainees and the guards too.

There are just too many questions unanswered here your Honor.

I know the situation in front of you is life changing. Life changing for Jason Van Dyke and for his entire family. Nothing in their lives will ever be the same, absolutely nothing. Jason is a good man who was forced into doing a part of his job that no Police Officer ever wants to do. But Jason's reactions were driven by the actions of Laquan McDonald.

Your Honor, only you have the ability to save what is left of this tightknit family. I do not envy your position, but I do ask for special consideration so that this man can get home to begin the process of putting together the shattered pieces of his life. There is so much rebuilding needed for the Van Dyke family, please allow all of them the ability to start that process now and not years from now.

I thank you for reading this letter. Know that I am always available for further discussion if need be.



Dean C. Angelo, Sr. EdD

Retired Detective (37+ yrs), Son of Detective (37 yrs), Father of Detective (12 yrs) Patrol Officer (2 yrs)  
Immediate Past President, Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge No. 7

October 27, 2018

Honorable Vincent Gaughan

2650 s. California Ave Room 500

Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I know you are a busy man with a lot on his plate at this time. My name is John McGee. I am a 26 - year veteran of the Chicago Police Department. My wife Kimberly and I, like so many others, are concerned for the family of Jason Van Dyke. I am not writing as a fellow officer, but as a close family friend. I would like to take a minute to speak on the character of the real Jason Van Dyke, not the monster he is portrayed to be by the media.

My family first met the Van Dykes in 2004 through interactions at St. Rene Goupil school on the southwest side. Jason's wife Tiffany and my wife, Kimberly, soon became best friends. From that point on, our families spent a lot of time together. Our children became as close as sisters and Jason and I also became very close. Over the years, we would spend weekends together at our family's lake house, celebrate birthdays and holidays, and get together for no reason whatsoever.

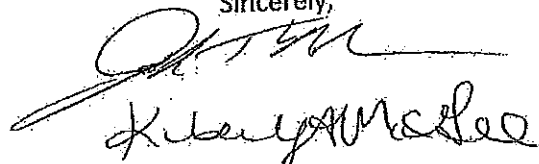
The unfortunate incident of Oct 20, 2014 has had a great impact on both of our families. It has been hard to watch your best friends suffer the way they have. But even though they were

involved in the fight of their lives, they were still there for my family. In June of 2016, our family home was in foreclosure. We had no idea where we were going to live and had to find some place quick. Without batting an eye, Jason told Tiffany that he wanted to help. They immediately opened up their home to my family. We stayed with them until we found our own place to move into. THAT is the real Jason Van Dyke -- caring, compassionate, and always willing to help those in need.

During the time Jason has been incarcerated following the trial has been extremely difficult on his family. Both of the children have been the subject of threats at school. It is hard for Tiffany to go out in public without some form of disguise or without somebody escorting her for safety reasons. There have been times that the girls won't eat because they feel guilty eating a good meal because, as his oldest put it, "How can I eat this when my dad is eating slop?" We are fearful, Your Honor, of the psychological effects this will have on these young girls.

In closing, Judge Gaughan, we ask that you show some of the care and compassion that Jason has shown to us and countless others in his life. Please be lenient in your sentencing of this good man and friend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John & Kimberly McGee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

John & Kimberly McGee

Judge Gaughan,

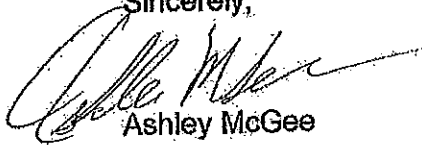
My name is Ashley McGee and I am writing you on behalf of Jason Van Dyke.

I have personally known Jason for 13 years. Jason has always been there supporting his children, my sister, and I throughout the years. He has been a second father to my sister and I for the past 13 years and still continues to be. My family and the Van Dyke family have shared a special bond over the past 13 years together. It is not just a, see you once in awhile type of friendship, rather the Van Dyke family is considered my family. Not only have I grown up with the Van Dyke children, but we all share a special bond, being part of the CPD family. This is something that is so special and something most people never get to experience. We all have such a bond together that we are truly family.

Jason has truly taught me what it means to have strength and poise in times of trouble. Regardless of what has happened over the years Jason has still been there for all of us, just as we are there for him. The strength that Jason has showed to us all these past four years has been so inspirational. No matter what has been going on in the case, he has still been the same caring, compassionate, and loving father, husband, and friend to all.

It has been an honor to get to know Jason over the past 13 years. I ask you to consider this Jason, the one we all know and love, when court gathers on October 31, 2018.

Sincerely,



Ashley McGee

October 28, 2018

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I write this letter to you on behalf of Officer Jason VanDyke in hopes that first you will please show him mercy during your sentencing and second to present a different perspective of his character than the media has presented.

I have known Jason for over thirty years. Our parents' homes are within a mile away from each other in the same neighborhood. We grew up together attending the same elementary, middle and high schools. In fact, Jason is the only person I still stay in contact with from high school.

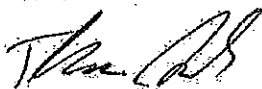
Some of my best memories of Jason were from the early to mid 1990s when we worked one of first jobs together as stockboys at the local K-mart. Jason was always a good worker. I never remember him getting into any trouble at school or work. Jason seemed to prefer a smaller closer group of friends. Unlike myself however, Jason had more direction for his future. I remember even back then he was taking law enforcement classes and talking about wanting to work in this field in some capacity. Aside from work, Jason in an avid admirer of sports car and muscle cars from the 60s. Although we chose different paths and occupations in life, Jason always made time to stay in touch and grab a bite to eat once in a while. We would often, almost daily at times text back and forth about one day achieving that dream of owning a nice car.

Today when I go for my walks I still walk past his parent's home, often time stopping to talk with his father. Jason's family is much like my own which explains why we've stayed in touch all of these years. His father always makes me feel at home and is always willing to lend some life experience to help me back better decisions in my life. We were both brought up to be respectful, hard working and honest.

Jason rarely spoke to me about his work, less and less as the years went by. Still, it was clear he was proud to serve the citizens of Chicago as a police officer. The incident with Laquan McDonald left me in utter disbelief. The video and media present a side of Jason completely foreign to me. I know Jason must have been truly scared for his life for him to justify taking the life of another human being.

Respectfully,

Thomas Suk



To: Judge

Regarding: Jason Van Dyke

From: Marcia Hohm  
2330 Wyckwood Dr.  
Aurora, IL 60506

Dear Judge

I am a 71 year old woman who has never written a character letter to a judge before, but who feels compelled to do so for a young man, Jason Van Dyke, because of my great respect for him and his family.

I have known Jason's wife and her family for over 30 years as they were very active in the church to which I belonged. I was introduced to Jason Van Dyke when he married his wife, and over the last 15 plus years have seen him as a loving husband, father and son-in-law. His daughters are lovely young ladies who were obviously raised in a loving, caring home, with very responsible and committed parents.

Jason always appeared very responsible in providing for his family as a Chicago police officer, a job about which I never heard him complain, no matter where he was stationed or what the situation. I admired his sense of responsibility for his job and his family.

From my knowledge of Jason, I am sure that he would never make a decision based on a desire to harm anyone, even a criminal.

I know Jason has fulfilled his police duties admirably for years, and I feel that he has consistently made decisions based on the safety of others. Jason could not be the excellent father and husband that he is if he made decisions based on hatred or malice.

In spite of the sad result of one of Jason's actions, I feel that his actions always were done with the desire to protect -- to protect his family, to protect his community, to protect his fellow officers, and lastly, to protect himself.

I would urge you to take into consideration the character of this fine young man, when sentencing him.

Respectfully Yours,

Marcia Hohm

To: Judge

Regarding: Jason Van Dyke

From: Melissa Gregson  
1025 E. Heather Dr.  
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Judge,

I am writing to ask you for mercy in your sentencing of Jason Van Dyke.

I grew up with Jason's wife, Tiffany, and I was delighted when she married the love of her life, Jason.

Jason had a dangerous job as a Chicago police officer, but Tiffany trusted God to protect him and to give him wisdom in his handling of difficult and dangerous situations.

Jason and Tiffany were committed to each other in their marriage and in raising the two daughters whom they love so much.

Tiffany was always supportive of Jason in his job, even though sometimes it would only be the girls and Tiffany that could come to visit with her mom because Jason would have to work.

Jason was a blessing to his family, to his friends, and to the Chicago community for all the years that he supported and protected them as a police officer.

I know, as humans, we are all subject to making mistakes, which affect the lives of others, but I truly hope that you will consider Jason's exemplary record as a police officer, a husband, a friend, and a father when you decide on his future.

With Great Respect,  
Melissa Gregson



# EKSTEIN ASSET MANAGEMENT, INC.

203 NORTH LASALLE STREET SUITE 2176

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

312-332-3600

October 22, 2018

Judge Vincent Gaughan

2600 S. California Avenue

Room 500

Chicago, Illinois 60680

Re: Jason Van Dyke

Dear Judge,

First, I want to express my sincere condolences to the family of Laquan McDonald.

My name is Sam Ekstein, Tiffany Van Dyke is employed by my firm (Magoo's Bar) as its manager; it is in that capacity that I know her and have met her children and her husband, Jason. I have had the opportunity to speak with Jason and their children on several occasions.

My experience is they are all good and kind people.

It is my understanding that the criminal justice system is established to identify and judge offenders of the law to punish wrong doers as a deterrent to the possibility future wrong doers.

Your Honor, it's not for me to comment on the results of the process to this point, frankly, in my view the trial as conducted in your court room demonstrated in no uncertain terms that the trial was as held was transparent, fair and the public now realizes that justice will be served no matter what station in life anyone belongs too. I believe this will serve as a landmark case on many levels thanks to you.

Now this case is at the sentencing stage.

The law requires you to pass sentence which I think at least in part is to rehabilitate a person tried and convicted. The Jason Van Dyke I met and know is the same man I saw in your court room, remorseful and forever changed. He will continue to pay for what happened that night; for the rest of his life. Nothing will change that. Judge, I pray you take into consideration the lives of his family when you administer sentence, for they are innocent victims. Much of their future is in your hands as well, a heavy burden to be sure.

My thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Samuel Ekstein



Paul Habiak  
Chicago, IL

October 28, 2018

Re: Jason Van Dyke

To the Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan

I am currently a Chicago Police Officer and have known Jason Van Dyke for a little over twelve years, some of which was working within the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts and Target Response unit for the Chicago Police Department. Jason and I also occasionally saw each other during workouts at our local gym. Jason was always a positive person who I looked forward to talking with because of his great sense of humor.

When at the gym, Jason was a family man who often shared stories about his daughters and the joy of raising children. Jason was a pleasure to be around and we often engaged in conversations about sports, current events, and our local neighborhood happenings. His easy going personality and sense of humor made our interactions all the more enjoyable.

While working together at the Chicago Police Department, Jason was dependable and good natured. He was a cheerful, energetic and loyal member of the police team who was committed to help serve the citizens of Chicago to the best of his ability.

I hope that the positive impact that Jason has had on his family, friends and community will be taken into consideration when sentencing decisions are made.

Respectfully,

  
Paul Habiak

October 18, 2018

The Honorable Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Avenue; Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

RE: Sentencing of Jason Van Dyke

Dear Judge Gaughan,

My name is Doreen Plachta and you and I were introduced while I worked at the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge 7. Although currently working in an entirely different field, John G. Adinamis Funeral Director, Ltd., I enjoyed my eighteen-year tenure at the Union working for, and with, Chicago Police Officers.

It was during my time at the FOP that I met Jason Van Dyke. Dean Angelo, then President Angelo, hired him right after the infamous video was released. Initially I was curious and a little intimidated by this man. Everyone in the world saw the "16-Shots" video hundreds of times and I was intrigued by this new employee; I was sure that he would be a monster; no different than the savages on the street that he spent years protecting! I was wrong...

During the most recent FOP Board of Directors election, the SunTimes published a life size picture of a disgraced FOP president and a story of his plan to run for the office of president again. I guess it was at that moment that I realized how much PTSD I suffered from while working for the FOP because I left the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor offices, went downstairs into the Hall and had a full on temper tantrum. I did not realize that Jason Van Dyke was cleaning the Hall. When I finally saw Jason, he was just standing there quietly watching me. I told Jason that I was ashamed of my behavior, especially in front of him. What with him facing this trial, his life and his family's lives forever changed, he faced possible prison time, public hatred, loss of friends and financial ruin, and I was out of control over an election that really did not matter.

Jason told me that nothing on this Earth really matters. He knew then that his life was forever changed, but the sadness he wore like a coat came from the belief that, when his life is over, he will never see the face of God because he broke the fifth commandment; Thou Shalt Not Kill. Jason is a practicing Catholic who, in his heart believes he will never meet God; he suffers daily.

Judge Gaughan, Jason Van Dyke is a good man. I've seen him with his family and friends. His wife and daughters adore him. He's kind, generous, protective, honest, fair and loving. I pray that you show mercy in your sentencing of this man, my friend Jason Van Dyke. I also pray that our Heavenly Father shows mercy when Jason's time on Earth ends.

Thank you,



Doreen Plachta  
226 Macarthur Drive Unit 5413  
Willowbrook, IL 60527

October 29, 2018

The Honorable Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Ave, Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Your Honor,

My name is Kimberly Thompson; I am Jason Van Dykes' sister in law. I have known Jason for over 15 years and he has been both a brother and close friend to me. We have remained close over the last decade of our lives and his children and my children have continued that friendship together. I know the decision you have before you is not an easy one to make, however I want to tell you a few things about Jason that I would graciously like you to consider. I know him to be an industrious, hardworking, family man who is community minded. He has worked hard in his church and in fact worked very hard at his job as a police officer. I am aware of the circumstances surrounding the verdict that was given to him. I truly believe that Jason has suffered extensively for his actions on October 20, 2014. He has lost credibility in the public eye. That night was a tragedy for two families. He is a good family man and he is a great person who sought to make his community and everyone he knew better. I believe that his parents, wife and children are certainly not deserving of what they have been through and it is my belief that a heavy sentence will serve as a tremendous hardship for his wife who will bear the responsibility of raising two children by herself. I believe Jason daughters will be tremendously affected if he is required to go to prison. Because of the significant difficulties that will be faced by his family, who themselves are blameless in this tragedy. I ask for leniency when sentencing Jason and to take all the facts into consideration when making this life altering decision I thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Thompson

October 29, 2018

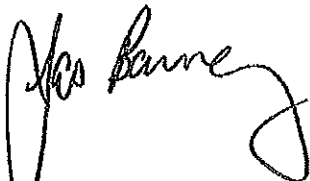
The Honorable Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Avenue, Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Your Honor,

I have been a Chicago Police Officer for 18 years. I worked on a ten-person team with Jason Van Dyke for three years while both of us were members of CPD's Targeted Response Unit. During that time we worked in various high crime areas of the city and I observed him acting responsibly and professionally time and again. I know him as a hardworking police officer, but more importantly a good husband and great father to his girls.

I'm writing today to request leniency in your sentencing. I hope you can find it in your heart to remember his family as you decide his fate. He's a good man who had a bad encounter with an offender. His wife and his daughters have suffered so much already, and they obviously weren't even there that night. Please give them the possibility of being a family again.

Sincerely,



Jason Barney

October 25, 2018

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan  
Cook County Criminal Court Building  
2650 California Avenue #526  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I am writing on behalf of Jason Van Dyke and his family. I have known the Van Dyke family for several years and have spent summer holidays, birthdays and graduations with Jason and his extended family. Jason Van Dyke is the quintessential family man. He is soft-spoken, has a quick dry wit, is a master at the barbeque grill and will readily help any neighbor with home repair. Jason is close with his parents and dotes on his younger sister and her growing family. He loves to crack jokes with his sisters-in-law and chats regularly on the phone with his father-in-law who lives out of state. Every Independence Day, Jason and his family host a bbq and party with fireworks for the entire block. When Jason's neighbors lost their house, Jason invited the family of four to share his modest home with his wife and two daughters. These selfless gestures are typical of Jason Van Dyke.

Your Honor, have you had the privilege of meeting Jason's wife and daughters? No husband or father lights up more when "his girls" enter the room than Jason Van Dyke. He adores his family. Jason and his wife set a beautiful example of a loving, healthy relationship for their girls with their effortless affection and easy, contagious laughter. Like many fathers with daughters, Jason's daughters have their dad wrapped around their fingers. Jason is a proud Dance Dad; he wouldn't dream of missing a dance recital or competition.

Judge Gaughan, please keep Jason Van Dyke with his family. His family and friends need him in their lives. And he needs them. Please consider that a man's character is stronger and counts for more than one action. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Diane C Cranford  
810 Pleasant Street, #2B  
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Robert A. Ringe  
1575 Adams Ave.  
St. Charles, IL 60174

10/24/2018

To the Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I am writing to you in regards to Jason Van Dyke.

My name is Robert Ringe. I worked with Jason Van Dyke for approximately 4 years back in 2000-2004. We were operators for a company called Protocol – we worked in a division that worked with the Illinois Department of Corrections. During that time, Jason and I became very good friends. We talked about many things there, and we both excelled at our jobs. Both being promoted to Lead Operators, then Warrant Clerks, and eventually both to Shift Managers.

Jason is very dedicated person. I learned this through our time together at Protocol. He was very dedicated to doing his job the correct way. He was very dedicated to making sure the job was done RIGHT. I followed in his steps and learned SO many things from him and how he handled situations. He was very good under pressure, and very calm and collected when dealing with issues that came up. I was able to grow and excel at my job following his example.

Jason's dream of becoming a Chicago Police officer led him on a new path. I have personally not seen Jason in quite a few years, but I have and still do talk with his wife and her sisters who also worked at Protocol with Jason and I. I remember talking with Jason and hearing how excited he was to become a Chicago Police Officer. I knew that he would succeed in his position. He has always had that drive to do well and his dedication would take him far in life.

Jason is a wonderful person. He was a great friend, and a huge influence on my life. I still utilize the skills I learned from him back then and apply it to my current job and in my personal life.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Ringe



The Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Courts  
2650 S California Ave Room 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Your Honor,

I am a long time friend of Jason Van Dyke. I've known Jason since 2003/2004 until the present. I'm a former police officer and currently am a coordinator for a couple of private security firms and PI firms. I'm a licensed Private Detective and a licensed Private Security Contractor as well as a Military Veteran of the United States Marine Corps.

I worked with Jason as a police officer many years ago, and I opened up my own security company before we had met and as I was preparing to retire from the department I utilized and hired many young men & women from Chicago and Cook County police departments respectively. Jason was one of these young officers I employed for many years; in fact Jason worked for me and with me all the way up to the time of this incident. I worked with Jason earlier that afternoon @ Jewelers Row where I've been the police coordinator for staffing and scheduling the pickups and movements of high end jewelry (18 years and counting FT & PT) to be safeguarded and taken to the various trucks that are assigned to 5 S Wabash in Chicago. I can tell you that Jason worked this detail for numerous years with and for me as well as other high profile assignments and never did I see or hear of any complaints or issues about Jason or attributed to him. He was and is in my mind still a good man and a good citizen. Not a mean bone in his body.

Jason and I over the years have developed a friendship and almost an Uncle/Nephew type of relationship. I of course was concerned and worried about the events of the night in question since as a former Marine and police officer I unfortunately have had shootings that were fatal. So I understood what this young man was going to have to go thru. But none of us where or are prepared for what has unfolded right before our eyes... My eyes... The entire Country's eyes. Jason is a family man. Had a happy family atmosphere with his wife and 2 young daughters. That is now changed forever. The city of Chicago brass... Mayor on down have thrown this man down a well so to speak. I never had trials or cases in front of you sir, but I spent many a long night/day etc @ 26th Street either @ the Grand Jury... Narcotics courts where I spent many a shift (30 yrs police... 20+ in Narcotics also detailed to DEA). I understand the legalities and pressure everyone is under and agendas... I pray and am asking for leniency for this man. He's NOT a murderer. He made a decision; right/wrong but HE... Was the only officer that evening that tried to do something?

Yes it looks awful. Yes a boy was shot and killed. But Jason Van Dyke did NOT plan on it. The young person put himself into that position. I pray you give Jason a fair sentence. Not punish this man for doing his job. He made a mistake... He shouldn't have to pay the debt by losing his Freedom or possibly his life for this incident. I'm not trying to minimize the victim's life but he was troubled and basically thrown away by his OWN MOTHER. Jason is also a victim so to speak. His wife & children as well as his extended family and friends are victims too!! Jason has been presented as evil and the poster child of racial bias that permeates our society unfortunately even today. He should not have to pay a huge price because of misdeeds from other officers or other perceived issues the Chicago police department has. There's a lot more people above him in this food chain... AKA Chain of Command that failed Jason. Failed the department. Failed the citizens and taxpayers of this city. You know what I mean. Everyone seems to have forgotten that he was CLEARED of any wrongdoing by numerous supervisors... City corporate counsel... And so on. But HE... He's the only one that is answering for this incident.

I thank you for your time. God Bless.  
Anthony (Tony) DuCanto

The Honorable Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Avenue,  
Room 500  
Chicago, IL 60680

To: The Honorable Vincent Gaughan

I have known Jason VanDyke for 18 years. He is not only the father of my nieces, my sister's husband, he is a friend. He has always been a very solid, stand up man. It is for this reason I am happy to write a letter of reference for Mr. VanDyke. I understand the seriousness of this matter, however, I hope the court will show some leniency.

Jason is a very loving man who has always been there for my sister and nieces. He attended every dance recital, sports activity, baptism, first-communion for his daughters. He has been a great addition to my family. He is a very religious man who attends church every week and is very protective of his family. He would do anything for his family, no questions asked. He is a loving husband and dedicated father.

Jason VanDyke has always been a very dedicated man that has done everything he could to keep the city of Chicago safe. He went to work every day putting his life on the line for people he did not even know. He became a police officer so he could make a difference in the world. He was out there day after day to serve and protect the people of Chicago. He served the Chicago police department for 14 years and never fired his weapon until one night back in 2014.

Jason has been accused of being a racist. I can promise the world, there is no way this man is a racist. Chicago is a very large city with people from many different racial backgrounds, ethnic backgrounds, and cultural backgrounds, there is no way a man who works for the Chicago police department can be racist. Jason was called to serve the people of Chicago, regardless of their race, and background. He was out there to serve and protect and that is what he did.

He is not a trigger, happy cop that people like to call him. The politicians involved had already made their decision about Jason before his trial even began. He had no chance of receiving a fair trial in Chicago due to all the publicity that was presented. He had to walk into the courtroom every day with people shouting at him calling him horrible names and wearing a bulletproof vest. He did not once respond to all the protesters who were there to harass him. He held his head high and walked right past them while they shouted and called him horrible names.

Jason VanDyke is the bravest man I will ever know. I am very proud to call him my brother. He wanted to protect the identity of his extended family for their own safety. However, we have stood by his side throughout this whole ordeal and we are a strong family.

I have no doubt that being a person who holds a position of power, such as yours, has to make very difficult decisions especially when you don't know Jason VanDyke. I hope you look at my letter as well as the countless other letters I am sure you have received and understand that that Jason VanDyke is the kind of person around whom people rally. That has to tell you something, so please let that be a factor in your decision.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amber Morris

**PAULINO VILLARREAL JR.**

Licensed Private Detective  
ILLINOIS LICENSE #115-001880

Honorable Judge  
Vincent Gaughan  
2600 South California  
Room 500  
Chicago IL 60680  
Re: Jason Van Dyke

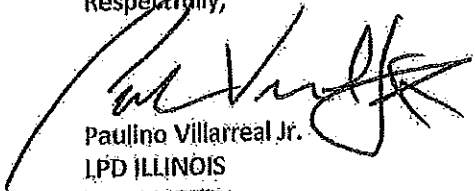
Honorable Judge Gaughan:

My name is Paulino Villarreal, I am a licensed Private Detective in the state of Illinois, I am Writing you this letter in support of Jason Van Dyke., I have known Jason for a few years now and I can honestly say to you that there is not one racist bone in this man. We are both Knights of Columbus, which is a strong Catholic faith based organization. We both served on the Knights of Columbus St. Michael the Arch Angel Police Council 12173.

Jason is a strong family man, who is guided by Spirituality as well as Love for the Church. Jason is the kind of man that would give you the shirt off of his back, he would go beyond and above to help a person in need.

You Honor, I ask that you please take into consideration his wife and children upon deliverance of his sentence, and I would ask for leniency on his sentence. Please also take into account the number of years he served our Great City Diligently and with Honor.

Respectfully,

  
Paulino Villarreal Jr.  
LPD ILLINOIS  
115-001880



DETECTIVE  
PAULINO  
VILLARREAL JR.



Honorable Judge  
Vincent Gaughan  
2600 South California  
Room 500  
Chicago IL 60680  
Re: Jason Van Dyke

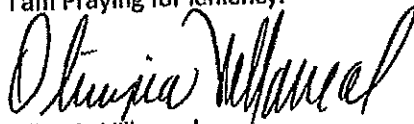
Honorable Judge Gaughan:

My name is Olimpia Villarreal, I have two small business in the city of Chicago one called VSI INC., which is a licensed private security agency, and the other being "A Cup Of Joe" and old fashioned coffee shop. Both of my businesses are located in the Garfield Ridge community, I am Writing you this letter in support of Jason Van Dyke., Jason would come into my coffee shop on a regular bases and we would have different conversations, mostly about how the neighborhood has changed & about what we can do for the children in the neighborhood.

I always felt that this man was very sincere in helping out all those he could, I also met his wife Tiffany several time and I can tell you that they looked like two teenage love birds when they were together.

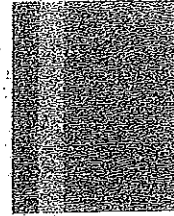
Your Honor please think of his children, and his wife, they really need him in their life. If he must go to jail, make it for only a short period of time. Don't let him miss out on the important times in his kids life.

I am Praying for leniency.

  
Olimpia Villarreal  
6810 West Archer Ave.  
Chicago IL 60638



Kim Petrisha  
Accurate Firearms Training  
14236 S Greenbay Ave  
Burnham, Illinois  
60633  
708-774-6297 kpetrisha@gmail.com



27OCT18

The Honorable  
Vincent Gaughan  
2600 S California Ave Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Your Honor,

I am writing to you on behalf of Jason Van Dyke.

My name is Kim Petrisha. I am a retired 30-year veteran of The Cook County Sheriffs Police Department. While working those 30 years I had many assignments and worked in specialized units. Gangs, Narcotics, K9, SWAT, Patrol Specialist/Training Officer, to name just a few. Periodically I was called on to teach in our training academy for both active officers, new recruits, and suburban police recruits attending our academy. My instructors' credentials include, Firearms, Defensive Tactics, Practical Felony Stops, ASP Baton, Handcuffing Techniques among others. I currently am Licensed by the State of Illinois as a Concealed Carry Instructor, and am a NRA Basic Pistol Instructor.



I mention all my training both past and present your Honor, because of my familiarity with Use of Force. I lived it, taught it to police officers, and am still teaching it now with my civilian students.

I met Jason when a retired officer from my department reached out to some of us retired officers to help escort Jason and his father Owen safely in and out of the court house when he would appear before you for this case. At that time late 2016 Chicago officers were ordered to stay away, and the Sheriff's court officers were ordered to stay inside the court building. The chaos outside the criminal court building with both the press, and protesters was disturbing and dangerous for all. I continued to walk Jason and his father into court with other retired officers until January of 2017 when waking from the courthouse with Jason a news cameraman intentionally pushed his large shoulder held camera into my head three times. The third time he knocked me off my feet causing severe injury to my back. I later had to have spinal fusion surgery and was unable to attend any more court appearances for Jason.

After Jason's court appearances I would follow him and his father to their homes and watch for anyone that may have been following their car. When arriving at their house is when I got to know Jason and his father personally. We would have personal discussions for at times an hour or more. Never discussing his case of course. I learned what a nice, caring, honest, young man that Jason was. Dedicated to not only his family but also to the Chicago Police Department. I learned how important his family was to him and why he lived near his mother and father. While talking to Jason we would talk and compare our police lives, working on the streets and how our jobs impacted our families.

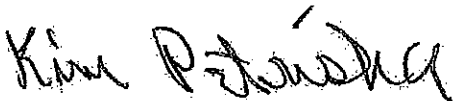
Not once did I ever hear an unkind word spoken by Jason about anyone he encountered while working, including other officers, or the civilians he was sworn to protect. In general, Jason always seemed like a "nice guy" not hardened like some officers I've met working the streets for many years.

In conclusion your Honor I would just like to say professionally I don't agree with the decision that the jury made, but that's just my opinion. I believe Jason acted accordingly to the way he was trained, the way I trained other officers in use of force.

With that I am begging for leniency for Jason's sentencing. There will be no benefit to society to send Jason to prison. His whole trial has been a tremendous hardship to him and his family already. His daughters need their father. His wife needs her husband. His parents need their son. This has been an awful strain to all involved. Jason must live with the fact that he ended a young mans life. Something all police officers hope never happens during their career.

We need to change laws to help our distressed youths and implement better training for our police officers. Putting a policeman in prison for acting on how he was trained is not solving anything. I'm praying you will let the healing begin starting by leniency in Jason's sentencing.

Respectfully  
Kim Petrisha



Dear Judge Gaughan,

My name is Ryan McGee and I am writing on behalf of Jason Van Dyke.

I have known Jason since I was four years old, going to the same preschool as his oldest daughter where she and I became best friends. Throughout the thirteen years that I have known him and his family, there are two characteristics that he attains and have always stuck out to me.

The first: having a very supporting side. Even though I am not his child, he has always treated me like one. Whether it was driving me home from school, showing up to school talent shows, coming to my lacrosse games, and even family dinners for birthdays. He has always shown support for me and I try to return it as much as possible, but I can never come close to the immense amount he has given me.

The second: strength. Jason has shown me what it means to be strong, especially over these past few years. Despite all the negativity surrounding his life, I have never not seen the brave look on his face that proves "we will get through this and everything will be okay."

Jason Van Dyke is one of the most supporting and strong men in my life and I am so grateful that I can look to him as my second father.

Sincerely,



Ryan McGee



October 29, 2018

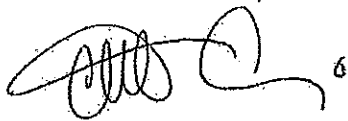
Dear Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I am writing this letter in support for my friend, neighbor, and Police Officer Jason Van Dyke. We have been family friends for 14 years. My Friend Jason has always been an extremely hard worker, he has even taken extra jobs to support his family.

He is a dedicated family man to caring for his wife Tiffany and his 2 daughters. Our families have spent countless outings together, whether with families, friends, or for adult nights out. Every time we would get together Jason and his wife would go out of their way to help with anything that was needed to be done.

As I sit here writing this choking up, I ask you to be as lenient as possible for Jason and his family.

Respectfully



Christopher Arroyo  
Captain/EMT  
Chicago Fire Department

October 20, 2018

Dear Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I am writing you in support of my friend, my neighbor, Jason Van Dyke. I have been friends with Jason for over 14 years, he is a responsible, respectable, honorable, and caring person.

Over the years, I had the pleasure of having him and his family over for multiple holidays. We enjoyed dinners, playing games, and family discussions, and goofing around.

As for his character, he has always been personable, friendly, quiet, and respectful. He is known as the quiet gentle giant maybe because he is the only male in a female household, which takes some patience and understanding. He is a father of two beautiful girls and they are the apple of his eye. He is very kind, loving, and patient with the girls. He has left our gatherings to bring his girls to and from extracurricular activities, even the girly ones; for example, dance and gymnastics. Not once did he complain, he smiled was happy to see his girls.

Jason and Tiffany are a great couple, they compliment and balance each other. My husband and I have gone out for date night with them on multiple occasions, and he always treats her with respect. For example, he opens the doors and makes sure she is attended to.

In regards to being a policeman. I am grateful that he put his life on the line to protect my family and the community. He has done this job for many years, has been stationed in the not so great gang areas, and has been a respected policeman. I am not sure how one continues to put themselves in harms way to protect others, as Jason has done this.

Thank you for taking the time to read this supportive letter for Jason Van Dyke.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerry Arroyo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gerry Arroyo

October 25, 2018

The Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughn:

I am writing to you to ask for leniency in sentencing of officer Jason Van Dyke. I am a resident of the city of Chicago, and have know Tiffany and Jason thru St. René school.

Jason is a Chicago Police Officer – someone who risks his life every day and night for the citizens of this City. Criminals have “won” with the guilty verdict as they no longer have to respect authority or adhere to commands of our police officers since they have now become “untouchable”. The jury has shown these criminals with a guilty verdict that there is simply no need for anyone to ever obey commands to drop a weapon because there is nothing a police officer can do about it any longer. The police officer will simply be arrested, tried and convicted for doing their JOB. I fear for this city which will now be run by the criminals. Police officers are now afraid to do their jobs for fear of prosecution.

Please consider leniency in the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke, as a father, husband, and officer of this city he was simply doing his job and what he thought was necessary to protect his life and those of his coworkers and the citizens in this city. By handing down a harsh sentence you too are giving the ultimate power to the criminals of this city by demonstrating they do not need to respect our police any longer, because the police officer is the one going to jail if they exercise use of deadly force to stop a criminal.

Sincerely,

  
Tom Salzburg

Oct 25, 2018

The Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughn:

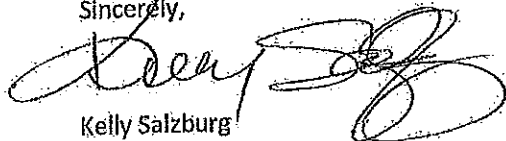
I am writing today asking you to consider leniency in the sentencing of Officer Jason Van Dyke. I have known Jason's wife Tiffany for many years as our children attended St. Rene Goupil school and both Tiffany and I were involved with the Cheerleading program for our girls.

While I do not know Jason very well, I can tell you even when he worked nights, he would drag his tired weary body to church on Sundays after a crazy Saturday nite shift for our Football/Cheerleader mass at 9:30 am as he always wanted to be there for his girls, supporting them in every way. Jason attended many if not most school events for his girls during our time at St. Rene. He is a loving father who gives of himself for his family. There aren't many fathers who would endure an all night shift and then go immediately to watch his girls cheering for the grammar school football team. Jason however is one of them. One story that comes to mind is during one of Jason's shifts he encountered a dog that was chained in a garage - clearly malnourished and mistreated. Jason took pity on this young dog and brought it home to give that dog a better life. Unbeknown to him - he was very allergic to this dog. His girls had fallen in love instantly and Tiff and the girls were determined to give this dog a better life. Jason then spent many nights/weeks in the basement sleeping - as he did not want to relegate this rescue dog to the basement because of his allergies. Jason is a man who puts his family first and his own needs second. How many men would bring a dog home and then sleep in the basement when they found out they were allergic to the dog???

He is not a cold calculated angry man who would go out and just "decide" he was going to kill a man during his shift. Jason has a tender heart and a pure love for his wife and children.

As an avid police supporter and citizen of the City of Chicago I am begging for leniency in his sentencing. I fear now what will happen with our city with the guilty verdict. The thugs of the city now know they are untouchable and they can commit any crime they want without regard to others or authority because the police will no longer put themselves at risk for fear of prosecution and jail. Jason was simply doing his job, and the guilty verdict has empowered the city criminals - lets reign in some of that misappropriated power to the criminals and demonstrate the police are in fact allowed to DO THEIR JOBS and criminals should adhere to orders to drop a weapon by showing leniency in the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke.

Sincerely,

  
Kelly Salzburg

October 24, 2018

Honorable Vincent Gaughan,

I am writing in support of our family friend, Jason Van Dyke, that we have known for over 14 years.

On the night of the shooting, Jason was doing the job that he was trained to do for 18 years. When he left home to go to work that day, he never imagined what was going to happen that night. Nor did he know that his life and that of his family would be changed forever – because he was doing his job of serving and protecting the citizens of Chicago.

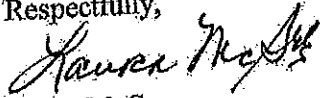
Every time a Police Officer puts on their uniform, their life changes. They are no longer a son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, mom or dad, they are the protectors of the city that they serve. And they put their lives on the line everyday.

I believe that the protestors and those that are against Jason, wouldn't hesitate to dial 911 when they need help. And Jason's brothers and sisters in blue would be there to respond to the call.

When making your decision, please consider leniency, he deserves it. He was doing the job that he was trained to do. His parents deserve to have their son home. His wife shouldn't have to raise their daughters without him. And his daughters need to have their dad at home to see all that they will accomplish through his guidance.

Please remember all that Jason did for the citizens of Chicago before this happened.

Respectfully,



Laura McGee  
524 West 46<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60609

October 24, 2018

Dear Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughn:

I am writing for your consideration of leniency in the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke, that fateful night changed the lives of two families forever. I know the Van Dyke family from my time I spent at St. Rene Goupil School as the principal. I had multiple opportunities to meet and interact with both Jason and Tiffany as their youngest daughter Kaitlyn was in second grade. This case has affected many people but none more than his family, especially his girls.

Both of the girls Kaylee and Kaitlyn have had to withstand the unimaginable trauma from the daily reminders that they witness the turmoil in their own home to the constant threats from the outside world. These girls are changed forever; they have been robbed of a normal childhood, they are under constant scrutiny because of something they are not responsible for. Research tells us that traumatic events affect every part of a child that experiences it, it changes their brains, effects them physiologically and even effects them at a cellular level. Kaylee and Kaitlyn are changed forever because of the of chaos and uncertainty they face each day. They have had death threats made against them, bullied and threats of their house being burned down.

They have endured heartache that no child should ever have to feel. I beg you to spare these two young girls a lifetime without their father, please consider them in your decision.

Respectfully,

Terese Maurer

October 24, 2018

Dear Judge Gaughen,

I am writing this letter to ask you to please consider leniency in the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke. While I understand and respect the court's ruling, I am asking if you could please consider giving Mr. Van Dyke the minimum sentence for the convictions given to him by the jury. I can appreciate the jury's decision making, and again, respect it, but I am hoping for you to possibly show mercy not only for Mr. Van Dyke, but also for his wife and two daughters. These three are the most important people in Mr. Van Dyke's life and the girls desperately need their father as soon as you deem it appropriate.

In closing, I am again humbly asking for you to show mercy and leniency when sentencing Jason Van Dyke. If you are unable to, I do understand and respect your authoritative role.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Van Dyke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial letter.

October 31, 2018

Circuit Court of Cook County  
Judge Vincent Gaughan  
2600 S. California  
Chicago, IL 60680  
Room 500

Luis Ponce de Leon  
5532 S. Nashville  
Chicago, IL 60638

RE: Jason Van Dyke

Dear Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

First, I would like to thank you for your service to our country.

Secondly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Luis Ponce de Leon and I have been a Chicago Firefighter for 15 years. I have been a close friend of Jason Van Dyke for 12 years. Throughout that time, we have grown very close. Our families grew up together and our children have attended the same schools. Our daughters have also participated in cheerleading together for 8 years. Jason has always been a very good friend. There isn't anything Jason wouldn't do for his friends and family. Jason would give you the shirt off his back if needed. I also have witnessed throughout that time period, the endless love that he expresses for his family and especially his two daughters. I know him to be a loving father and husband. Due to these very unfortunate events, he now cannot even hold his daughters hand.

With the upcoming sentencing hearing, I ask that you take heed in your decision and ask you for leniency when deciding the final outcome. I appreciate your time and efforts in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any questions should arise.

Respectfully Submitted,



Luis Ponce de Leon  
(773)-633-5038



October 31, 2018

Circuit Court of Cook County  
Judge Vincent Gaughan  
2600 S. California Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Room 500

Joslyn Ponce de León  
5532 S. Nashville Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60638

RE: Jason Van Dyke

Dear Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Joslyn Ponce de León. I am a Pediatric Respiratory Therapist at Lurie's Children's Hospital in downtown Chicago for 6 years. I have been a good friend of the Van Dyke Family for the past 12 years. Our children have also known each other for the same time span. Our youngest daughters are best friends and have been involved in cheer for the past 8 years. Our oldest children have also been really good friends. I want to let you know, that Jason is an exceptional husband, father, and friend to me. He would always go above and beyond for his friends and family. Throughout the years, Jason has shown to be an outgoing friend, family man, and police officer. Unfortunately, due to these unforeseen circumstances, he has now been taken away from his loved ones. Jason has always held his friends and family in very high regard. Jason has always proven to be very trustworthy and outgoing.

I do understand the unnecessary stress that you are placed under during these times. I only ask that you consider leniency when deciding this outcome. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I do appreciate your time in this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Joslyn Ponce de León

(630)-361-3153

October 24, 2018

Circuit Court of Cook County  
Judge Vincent Gaughan  
2600 S. California Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Room 500

Thomas Messina  
7720 West 65<sup>th</sup> Place  
Bedford Park, IL 60501

RE: Jason Van Dyke

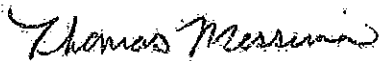
Dear Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

My name is Thomas Messina. I have been in the Pipe Fitters Union Local 597 for 20 years, working primarily in Chicago. I have personally known Jason Van Dyke for 3 years. During the time I have known Jason I have always found him to be helpful, compassionate, honorable, and committed to his family and his faith. I have had the pleasure of getting to know Jason and feel very lucky to call him a friend. I have always known Jason to be a caring and attentive father and husband. I see how Jason's daughter's and wife are struggling to make sense of this senseless tragedy.

As the proceedings are continuing to move forward I kindly ask that you take into consideration the kindness and happiness that Jason's presence has on the family and friends who surround him. I see how Jason's family suffer each day due to the absence of him in their daily lives. This is a very terrible situation but I am hoping that you will take into consideration what a positive influence Jason has been for his family and friends and that you can provide leniency during these proceedings.

Thank you for your compassion and kind attention to this difficult matter.

Respectfully Yours,



Thomas Messina  
708-469-8413

October 23, 2018

Circuit Court of Cook County  
Judge Vincent Gaughan  
2600 S. California Ave  
Chicago, IL 60608  
Room 500

Jill Bernal  
7720 West 65<sup>th</sup> Place  
Bedford Park, IL 60501

RE: Jason Van Dyke

Dear Honorable Judge Gaughan-

My name is Jill Bernal. I have been a small manufacturing business owner in the Pilsen area of Chicago for over 13 years.

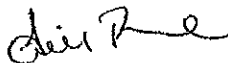
I have personally known Jason Van Dyke for approximately 6 years. Through the duration of our friendship I have always known Jason to be incredibly kind, compassionate, and deeply giving to those around him. The love and commitment that he has shown for his wife and children is seemingly endless. Our families have created wonderful memories of our children growing up together. Jason has brought countless hours of laughter and joy to everyone around him. His dedication to family and friends is nothing short of honorable. I am deeply grateful for all the time I have been able to call him my friend.

I have gotten to know Jason not only through the friendship of our families but also as a fellow parishioner at St. Jane De Chantal. Jason has always conducted himself with honor and respect. The events that occurred are truly a tragedy for all the families that are involved. My heart aches for his children and the extreme loss and grief that they are suffering.

I pray that my words will help you truly see the wonderful man, father, and husband that Jason Van Dyke is. I also pray that in your heart you can find leniency and compassion for Jason during this difficult time. Jason has touched so many lives. His absence truly has a detrimental affect on his children who miss him and need him in their lives.

I appreciate your kind attention to this difficult matter. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Respectfully Yours,



Jill Bernal  
773-306-3986

October 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

Judge Vincent Gaughan

2600 S. California

Room 500

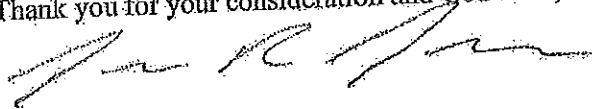
Chicago IL, 60680

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I've asked God many times now to help me make sense of this. My friend, my buddy Jason, guy I fish with, hunt with; He went to work one day and it changed lives forever. I don't think there is anyone involved that wouldn't change that night. I don't think there is a moment in the rest of Jason's life where he won't be re-living the tragedy of that evening. A life was lost, it's tragic.

Jason has asked me to look out for his "girls". Jason asked that I take the time and do the things with our families that he may miss never get to. He asked I bring the girls up right and look out for them as he would. These are the words and requests of a good man. We are men of respect, we are men of chivalry in a time extremely lacking both those traits. This world is hard enough and we need men like Jason in it. At this time Judge, I ask that you please show leniency on his sentencing.

Thank you for your consideration and God bless,



Jason R. Jones

October 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

Judge Vincent Gaughan

2600 S. California

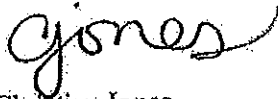
Room 500

Chicago Il, 60680

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I have known the Van Dyke family for several years. I am friends with his wife Tiffany, but have grown close to Jason over the past 6 years. In the years that I have grown close to Jason, I have been nothing but impressed by what a wonderful, loving, and devoted father and husband he is. I have found him to be extremely kind, thoughtful, humble, and caring, and these qualities are something that he seems to bring to every aspect of his life. He has always been the man who is looking to help others and thinking of himself last, and because of this, my husband and myself have developed a true friendship with Jason that we value very much. He is an irreplaceable part of so many people's lives, including mine and my family's, and we pray daily that he will be home again soon. At this time Judge, I ask that you please show leniency on his sentencing.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,



Christina Jones

October 30, 2018

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

My name is Kristin Maratea and I am a long time friend of the Van Dyke family. I met Jason and his wife, Tiffany through my sister. What drew us to both Tiffany and Jason was that they not only were Catholic and involved in their church like us, but they were just the ideal couple. I realized quickly how often he worked in order to provide for their family, but I loved how hands on he was with his kids when he had the day off with them and how helpful to us he was, always lending a hand at any gathering we had. To be honest, I have a few friends with policeman husbands and the first thing they do when they get off their shift, is head to bed after a long exhausting day. They don't want to be bothered. Not Jason. He never missed any recital or school function that was important to his girls. They have a great family dynamic that I know most couples strive for and never are able to achieve such balance. I can't imagine disrupting this balance and letting it affect Jason's and Tiffany's children's lives.

Jason is an exceptional father, husband, friend and policeman. He needs to be around not only to protect and care for his daughters, but to show them what kind of men they should allow in their own lives as they get older. I come from a broken home, I grew up without my father and I resent him for it. This lead to many years of depression and poor choices in men before finally meeting my husband. This is a road I just don't want for these girls. They don't deserve it.

I ask that you strongly consider the absolute minimum sentence so that we can be one step closer to bringing Jason home, where he's meant to be with his wife and girls.

Respectfully,



Kristin Maratea

October 29<sup>th</sup> 2018

Judge Vincent Gaughan

2600 S. California

Room 500

Chicago II, 60680

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

My name is Kathryn Steker and I have known the Van Dyke family for several years through mutual friends of ours. Jason, his wife Tiffany and their two daughters are the epitome of what a family should be. Jason is a dedicated husband, father, catholic, and public servant who embodies these roles with pride. His devoted service to this city is now being based upon five seconds of his entire career which is not a fair portrayal of who he is as a person or a police officer. The man behind the badge is a rather shy (almost introverted) man with a large heart and a kind soul. Jason is a man who honors his wife, loves his children beyond measure and is a respected member of the community. I ask that you please show leniency on his sentencing.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Steker". The signature is fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Kathryn Steker

10/22/2018

To: Judge Vincent Gaughan

Re: Jason VanDyke

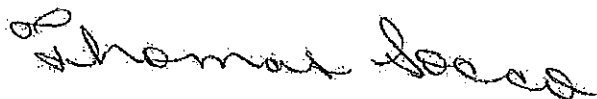
Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan, my wife and I met Jason VanDyke and his wife at a party at my daughters house. My daughter happens to be good friends with the VanDykes for years.

After spending time with Jason and speaking to him for several hours he seemed to me to be a dedicated Catholic and caring father and husband. Jason is a God fearing man who is a wonderful parent. Jason is very well liked among his peers and has always been a positive influence in the community.

Therefore I ask that you show leniency on sentencing for this man and his family.

Respectfully

Thomas Socco

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Socco".



Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

My name is Ann Covich and I am a proud wife of a police officer here in Illinois. He has been on the job for 20 years, while we have only been together/married for 15 of those 20 years. As expected I am very upset for Mrs. Van Dyke and her children with the recent verdict for her husband. As a police wife I hear many stories from my husband about what he does on a daily basis on his job. He took an Oath to Protect and Serve and up until recently it has been done very proudly. He has been injured several times on duty and every time gets up, dusts himself off, and returns to do his duty.

First of all, I believe a jury of Officer Van Dyke's peers should have been other people who are put in his position on a daily basis, i.e. Other officers, first responders and military personnel. A civilian does not understand what our men and women in Blue deal with on a daily basis. Even me, as a police wife who hears multiple stories feel I do not have the capabilities to make the decision that his jury had to make with the information they had. I personally watched Every minute of every day of his trial. The fact that the jury was sequestered on a holiday weekend also makes me believe they made a snap decision so they did not have to stay over the holiday weekend and deliberate. Again, just my opinion.

As a police wife, I have personal experience with my husband coming home from duty with every emotion you can possibly experience over 15 years. There are days where the job goes smooth and days where it does not, I support him in each and every one of emotions, each and every one of those days just as I can expect that Mrs. Van Dyke did with her husband Officer Van Dyke.

As a viewer of the full trial that was broadcasted on TV I was obviously very upset and sad that the jury decided to find him guilty. I understand he was found guilty by a "jury of his peers", But I do not believe he should spend time in jail with the general population of criminals. He did what he believed was his job that he was taught to do. He felt threat and he acted upon it. Just because the other officers on the scene didn't act did not mean Officer Van Dyke was not in fear for his life. His sentence should not be that of a common criminal. Fine, if you think he didn't do the right thing, take his job away, take his gun away, make him find a new profession to support his wife and children but to put him into prison for doing what he perceived was doing his job he was trained to do and that I feel is a misuse of Justice. Please, Your Honor during his sentencing keep him and his family in mind and the fact that he did not plan to shoot Laquan McDonald. He felt the threat was there and did what he believed was the right thing. Do not punish him and his family after he got up day after day, put on his uniform and protected and served the city of Chicago with pride. I beg you to let him go home to his wife and children and not punish him by putting him in the same prison as serial killers and 1st Degree premeditated murderers. It would be the right thing to do to show our officers that we support them rather than will let them hang out to dry.

Proud police wife but upset with the Criminal Justice System,  
Ann Covich

Ann Covich  
10-15-18

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

Please show leniency on Jason Van Dyke. I write as a citizen of Illinois. He is a hard working civil servant who spent 20 years serving his community to protect us. I do not believe the jurors were impartial. I watched the trial from start to finish. I watched the interviews after, with the jurors. They had him guilty before the trial even started. I truly believe they did not want to be sequestered for a three day weekend. As a police officer, they serve and protect. His duty that night was to remove a threat. I believe he felt threatened. I do not believe he should be sitting in a jail cell. If he must be punished, please take his job, his pension and his gun, but please do not take his freedom. I stand by our police officers. If they all stop serving and protecting us we are in big trouble. He was doing what he was trained to do. He is not a common criminal. I beg of you please show leniency on Jason Van Dyke.

Sincerely,

*Christine Berrong*

Christine Berrong

10-15-18

**Subject:** Jason Van Dyke  
**From:** Randie lewis (r84266@sbcglobal.net)  
**To:** ranlew48@yahoo.com;  
**Date:** Saturday, October 27, 2018 8:31 PM

Dear Judge Vincent Gaughan,

i am writing this to you in regards to the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke. I hope you find it with in your heart to know Jason is a family man. A husband, a son to his mom and dad, a sibling. There isnt any police officer's family member that don't want them to not go home. As you are a Good Judge, a husband, a son to parents, a father and I know they would want you to be home with them as well. Please put your self in a police officer's shoes and know what they have to deal with on the job. you have a very tough job as well. Please know that Jason and his family are very wonderful people. His kids and wife need him. They should not have to be going through any of the heart aches that this city has brought upon them. Please find it in your heart to let him go home and do what he has done for his family for so many years and what he has done for the city, our community, and what he can be to his family and live his life with them, not torn from them.

Randie Purtell  
6123 s Rutherford ave  
Chicago Il 60638

*Randie Purtell*  
*6123 S. Rutherford ave.*  
*Chicago Il 60638*

**Subject:** [No Subject]  
**From:** Nikkie Lewis (sixtyfour@yahoo.com)  
**To:** r84266@sbcglobal.net;  
**Date:** Thursday, October 11, 2018 6:22 PM

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan

Re: Jason Van Dyke

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Please take into consideration that Jason Van Dyke is a loving family man, upstanding member of his community, and the prevailing circumstances leading up to the reaction shown on the video tape.

When a man loves his city, loves his family and loves his job, he protects them all.

He has lost his job and is about to be torn from his family and his community unless you can find it in your heart to consider all of this and show him understanding and humaneness. He was and is a good man.

*Nikkie Lewis*  
200 Wilburton Dr  
Deltona FL 32738

October 9, 2018  
Honorable Vincent Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S California Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Your Honor,

My name is Pete Paesani. I am a retired Senior Parole Agent with the Illinois Department of Corrections. I have been asked to say a few words on behalf of Jason Van Dyke. I am only too happy to speak to the Jason I knew. I will admit I have not spoken with Jason in many years, but can speak to the kind of person I know him to be.

Prior to Jason becoming a Chicago Police Officer, he worked for a company charged with taking calls from those on parole. This company did far more than simply take calls. But for the purpose of this letter, I will simply state that the basics of Jason's employ at this company was to assist parolees and relay concerns to parole agents. Jason was an operator and someone I considered to be a "go to" asset. He was always willing to assist, engage, and follow through with any requests made and was generally someone to be counted on. His attitude was always positive, professional and appropriate.

In working for the company described above, Jason met a young lady who would later become his wife. They worked at the company together, as did several sisters to Tiffany. Throughout our conversations, Jason related his strong desire to enter into the world of law enforcement, most notably the Chicago Police Department. Jason began to test, obtain letters of recommendation and eventually was offered his dream job. I was one of the people Jason asked to write a letter for. I was happy to do this for him, as I firmly believed in his abilities. Jason was very proud to later report to me that he had been offered the job. It was a call I eagerly awaited. I knew he would be an excellent officer, based on his dedication in the work he was doing at the time did for my department, his ethics and desire to become a police officer. Unfortunately, we seldom spoke following his department from work with my department, but he was always well thought of.

I appreciate any considerations granted to Jason Van Dyke, as I have always been very fond of him. This tragic situation is troubling to all within the law enforcement world, and most notably his family. Thank you for taking the time to consider my relationship.

Pete Paesani

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I have known Jason Van Dyke as a good friend and colleague for 3 years. I am very troubled about his recent case, as he has been a solid person. It is for this reason I am writing this letter. I understand the seriousness of this matter however; I hope the court will show some leniency.

Jason is a hard worker. He is willing to help people out with whatever they need help with. He works hard to provide for his family, he is a great father. He is honest, and a good friend. He has friends of all ethnicities, and is a good part of society.

Judge Gaughan please consider my voice through this letter as it might not be protesting through the streets of Chicago shutting streets down but I feel **JUST AS STRONG!** Jason was just trying to do his job as a Chicago Police officer to keep the streets safe. He wouldn't have ever been put in that position if he wasn't a police officer.


It is my sincere hope the court takes this letter into consideration at the time of sentencing.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Ina Zimmermann

McKinley Park Chicago

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ina Zimmermann', with a stylized flourish at the end.

October 15 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

I wanted to let you know the kind of person Officer Jason Van Dyke is. He is kind, thoughtful, strong and brave. He is the person I want on my side, the person I want to be friends with, the person I depend on, the person I worked with and the person that kept me and my family safe for many years.

My neighborhood became less safe on the day Jason was charged with murder. I have recently retired from the Chicago Police Dept. but my husband and brother are still on the Department. This court case and all the ugliness that has come with it could have been me or my family. When Police Officers are at work protecting the City of Chicago, their citizens and tourists, we expect our families and homes will be kept safe by our fellow Officers. Officer Jason Van Dyke was doing his job, protecting the neighborhood I live in and making it safe for citizens of Chicago and visitors to drive down our streets, exit the expressway, get a late night snack from Burger King or Dunkin Donuts and make it to their destination without a knife wielding assailant attacking them.

Often times, police work isn't pretty. It's often a job that requires patience, strength and bravery. It's doing a job where decisions have to be made, and made quickly because the safety of others **DEPENDS** on it.

Jason made a decision that evening while doing his job. Nothing more. He followed the guidelines and training that was pounded into us by the Chicago Police Department Training Academy. The only blame to be placed for what took place that evening lies with the **OFFENDER** for not following the law again and again and again and again.

I am writing to you today to ask you to use your knowledge and experience when sentencing Jason Van Dyke. He deserves the most lenient sentence available for the crimes he has been convicted of. He is not a threat to our or any community, in fact just the opposite.

I want you to know members of the Chicago Police Dept., retirees, police families and entire communities support Jason and his family. Please lessen the pain for his young daughters and show mercy when sentencing Jason Van Dyke.

Sincerely,

Catherine O'Rourke Ret. 19778  
5933 W. 55th St.  
Chgo. IL 60638

I AM A REGISTERED VOTER



October 15, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

The purpose of this letter is to request leniency for sentencing on behalf of Jason Van Dyke. I did not know Jason when he was a policeman involved in the highly publicized shooting of Lacquan McDonald. However, I have gotten to know Jason over the past two years and it feels like I have known him forever- that's how it is with him.

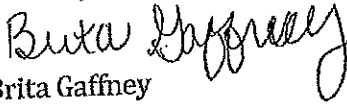
Jason is goofy, honest, quick witted, kind, and compassionate. That's why I'm writing you- Jason's compassion- I know that after only knowing him for two years Jason would offer me support with whatever I needed. If I was going through a trying time I could count on Jason and his family to lend an ear or hand, it's just who they are, I have to help in any way I can.

I myself come from a family of police, my father is retired with over 30 years of service to the city of Chicago and my brother is currently out on the streets of Chicago trying to make it a little safer working on a tact team for the Chicago Police Department. This is exactly what Jason was doing, dedicating his career to trying to make the City of Chicago just a little bit safer in whatever small ways he could.

Not many people understand the sacrifice Police Officers and their families make every day, it used to be that you were just afraid that they would not make it home, pray to God that they don't get a call that could jeopardize their safety or their life. Now there's an added fear that they don't make it on the news; that their not vilified in the media for doing their job before they even walk through those courtroom doors. Jason was.

Jason is a dedicated husband and an unbelievable father to two beautiful daughters. He lives for his girls. Jason is not a danger to society, he is not an evil criminal. He is a hardworking man who was doing what his employers trained him to do. Please take this into consideration when handing down a sentence, he is kind, he is loved, he is good.

Sincerely,

  
Brita Gaffney  
Registered Voter

24 October 2018

Judge Vincent Gaughan  
Cook County Court Building  
2600 S. California Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

5101 S. Wentworth  
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Dear Judge Vincent Gaughan:

I am writing this letter in support of Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke. Officer Van Dyke along with many other officers chose the career of Police Officers in order to make the world a safer place and stand up for the victims of crime who can't defend themselves. Our goals, for many of us, are not monetary but because of compassion for the innocent. For many of us the job of police officer is our lives. We spend our careers in the most depressed areas of the city. We see the murder of children and the elderly, the decomposing bodies of the innocent, the rape and beating of innocent women and children, the sexual and physical abuse of the innocent child, the taking of identities, the taking of property of hard working families, the armed robberies of citizens who just try to make it through life. The destruction of life.

The effects to the normal human being who observes these heinous acts are beyond repair. They affect our families and our souls. Many police officers lose their spouses, children and their lives because of the effects of this chosen career.

Officer Van Dyke spent his many years of his life following his chosen life's path. I ask that you show compassion for this officer in him doing the job he believed was right and justified according to the law.

Regards,



Detective Daniel Stanek  
Chicago Police Department  
Area Central Homicide

October 26, 2018

Dear Honorable Judge Gaughan,

I am writing to you to ask that you show leniency to Jason Van Dyke when sentencing him. I work for the Chicago Police Department and I recognize that anyone of us could make a split second decision that might later be judged wrong. I don't believe Jason acted maliciously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anita Whicher".

Detective Anita Whicher

26 Oct 2018

To:

Judge Vincent Gaughan  
LEIGHTON CRIMINAL COURT BUILDING  
Chicago IL

From:

Detective Selles Morris #21220  
Area Central Detective Division  
Chicago Police Department  
5101 S. Wentworth Ave  
Chicago IL 60609  
W 312-747-8380  
C 773-791-5664

Subject: Jason Van Dyke Sentencing

I am writing this letter asking Judge Vincent Gaughan to consider the lightest possible sentence for Jason Van Dyke. In my career in law enforcement I have found myself in bad positions where I wished I had approached the situation differently, by waiting for back up or creating more space between myself and a hostile offender. This would have given me more time to better assess the situation. I have been lucky to not have these bad positions that I was in result in myself, an offender or anyone else being seriously injured. In my opinion Jason Van Dyke thought that the offender would comply with verbal direction and at some point, was in fear of death or great bodily harm to himself or others. He put himself in a bad position, like many officers including myself have done. While I cannot answer why he did not retreat from his position to buy himself some more time, what I can tell you is that I have seen fear cause officers to freeze in position. Jason Van Dyke put himself in a bad position, but this doesn't show what is in Jason Van Dyke's heart. Please consider the lightest possible sentence for Jason Van Dyke.

Respectfully,

Detective Selles Morris #21220



Honorable Judge Gaughan:

I would appreciate compassion in sentencing Officer Jason Van Dyke as he has a family to support and we all have to make instant decisions on this job. Anyone can be put in a life or death situation at any time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Detective V. Wathen

*Detective V. Wathen*  
Chicago Police Department

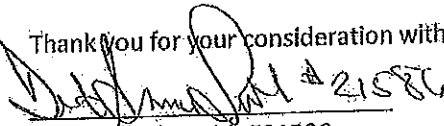
October 24, 2018

Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I am writing this letter in support of Jason Van Dyke. As a police officer/detective with the Chicago Police Department for the past 23 years, I have been completely taken aback by the outcome of this trial. I realize that there are many different opinions of how Jason Van Dyke handled the encounter with Lequan McDonald that fateful night. However, I do believe that his decision to shoot Lequan McDonald was not made with malice. Like many, I watched the video of the incident in horror. But I watched it through the lens of a veteran police officer with years of street experience, and what I observed was a reactionary decision that erupted as the result of responding to hundreds of stressful and highly charged calls for service that an officer handles on a daily basis.

This incident has no doubt changed the landscape of law enforcement across the country but we, as police officers, are human and have the same fears as many of the citizens we nobly serve. A bulletproof vest, loaded gun, badge and 6 months of training in the police academy do not make us impervious to the world in which we currently live in. Many have had the privilege to judge Jason Van Dyke's actions with the benefit of hindsight from the comfort and safety of their home or place of work. This, in my humble opinion, is completely unfair. As a result, I am hoping you will be compassionate when deciding Jason Van Dyke's sentence. This decision will not only have a profound effect Jason Van Dyke and his family but with the future of law enforcement officers across the country.

Thank you for your consideration with respect to this matter.



Det. Amanda Smith #21586  
Area Central Detective Division  
5101 S. Wentworth Ave  
Chicago, IL 60609  
(312)747-8380

24 Oct 2018

Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I am writing to you regarding the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke. As a Police Officer for 21 years I find the arrest, charging, and conviction by a jury of Jason Van Dyke to be a sad event for all involved.

While his actions were found to be criminal by the jury, I know it is your responsibility to determine a fair sentence. Based on your experience as a judge working in the Leighton Criminal Courts building you have a unique level of knowledge about crime, criminals, and their chances for redemption.

I hope you will view Jason Van Dyke in a sympathetic light. He led a crime free life and chose to join the Chicago Police Department to protect others from criminals. After many years working, his split second judgement on one night was deemed criminal. But if not for him putting himself in between the public and the criminal element in our society he would not have been in the position to make that split second decision.

I ask you to consider these facts as well as your experience as a judge in coming to a fair sentence for Jason Van Dyke. I hope you recognize the potential for him to lead a full and productive life with his family. I hope that you give him that opportunity at the soonest possible date by granting him a lenient, yet fair, sentence.

Thank you for your consideration.

Detective Patrick Deenihan #20739

Chicago Police Department

Area Central Detective Division

24 Oct 2018

Dear Honorable Judge Gaughan,

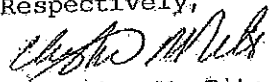
I am writing to plead leniency in the sentencing of Jason Van Dyke. I am also a Chicago police officer. In my 28 years of serving this community, I have only been involved in one shooting and subsequent death of a civilian citizen.

I was not standing on the street with Van Dyke that October night, but I can attest to his frame of mind immediately after the shooting. The disbelief as the massive amount of adrenaline and fear subsides. The blinding clarity as tunnel vision recedes and his immediate surroundings return. The anguish, at the realization that he, took a human life.

This is appears to be an insurmountable decision for you. You must balance justice with the needs of our community. Please remember there are two families suffering and praying. There are innocents waiting in both the McDonald and Van Dyke families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectively,



Christian M. Tito



24 October 2018

To the Honorable Judge Vincent Gaughan,

Judge Gaughan, I would like to share a few things with you about the Jason Van Dyke I know. I worked with Jason from 2005 to 2008 in the Target Response Unit. I know the Jason that was a hard working patrolman who was an honest and straight forward type of man when dealing with the public. I know the Jason that came to work every day with the intention of doing his job to the best of his capabilities. I know the Jason that would on occasion give part of his lunch to the homeless person outside or pay for an item at one of the local stores for the kids waiting in line. I know the Jason that loved his job and loved doing it day in and day out.

I also know Jason the family man, who often spoke about his wife Tiffany and their two young daughters. I know the Jason that worked tirelessly at several jobs to provide for his family so Tiffany could be at home and raise the girls. Jason always wanted the girls to have the things that he didn't as a child.

Judge Gaughan, Jason has led a crime free life and does not pose a threat to society. I know the Jason that went out every night and did his job and did it right. Sir, I hope that you can provide Jason with a speedy but fair sentencing.

I appreciate any consideration in this matter

Joseph Merkel

22 October 2018

Judge Vincent Gaughan  
Cook County Court Building  
2600 S. California Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

5101 S. Wentworth  
Chicago, Illinois 60609

Honorable Vincent Gaughan:

I am writing this letter to support Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke. As a Detective in the Chicago Police I believed it was important to follow the trial of Officer Van Dyke. From the beginning of the investigation, I followed the case. I attempted to look into the mind of Officer Van Dyke to feel and see what he did on that horrible night that changed many lives. I attempted to figure out what I would have done in that situation. I know how many officers backed away from police work following the horrible situation in Ferguson Missouri were the police officer's life was ruined for doing his job. Many officers including the officers who observed a McDonald with a knife refusing police orders did not take police action and attempted to justify it in court during their testimony.

After much soul searching, I believe Officer Van Dyke did what he believed was right in the eyes of the law. He followed his training which I went through. The fear for our freedom, our livelihoods and the fear of the effects on our families prevented the assisting officers from doing what was required by the law of our free country.

Officer Van Dyke despite the fears of other police officers did what he believed was right in the eyes of the law. He and his family have suffered tremendous pain for a situation created by McDonald but also his absent mother. Officer Jason Van Dyke believed he needed to act quickly in this situation that lasted what seems like a lifetime in a police officer's mind.

Please show compassion for Chicago Police Officer Jason Van Dyke and his family.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Detective Jamie Richardson  
Chicago Police Department  
Area Central Detective Division

October 17, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 South California Avenue, Room 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

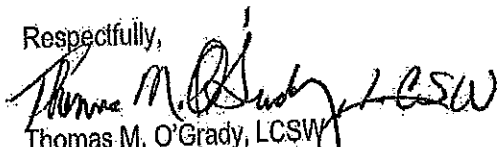
Judge Gaughan:

I am a Psychotherapist for the last 43 years, the son of a Chicago Police Officer, Vincent O'Grady (deceased), a life-long voter in Cook County, a friend of Jason Van Dyke and his family. I am writing you to ask that you demonstrate judicial courage and be merciful in sentencing Jason.

I believe you know Judge, as does every intelligent, informed person in Cook County, that Jason became Mayor Emmanuel's sacrificial lamb when he preemptively ordered Chicago to pay the Laquan McDonald family five million dollars. To every potential juror in Cook County, that "rush-to-judgment" payout, de facto, politically declared Jason as guilty, long before he ever went to trial.

In a city historically divided by racial hatred, bigotry and political cowardness, I am asking you to step-up and show Jason Van Dyke mercy. He is a good man, not an evil man. Your Honor, you have a quintessential opportunity to place your name in Chicago's contentious racial history as a brave judge who courageously advanced healing, turning his back on hatred.

Respectfully,

  
Thomas M. O'Grady, LCSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Jack Byrnes  
3239 South Lowe Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60616  
312-415-6041

10/12/2018

Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Circuit Judge  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave., Rm. 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Re: Jason Van Dyke

Dear Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan,

My name is Jack Byrnes and I am writing you this letter in hopes that you will consider my words when you decide on Jason Van Dykes sentencing. I have only known Jason for a little over 3 years, but in that time, I have learned so much about Jason as a person and not as a Police Officer.

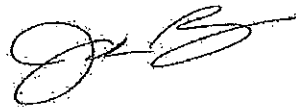
The Jason that I have gotten to know during the most stressful point of his life is that of a compassionate, kind and sometimes funny family man. When our paths would cross we would talk about topics of the day, sports and always about family. His wife and girls always came up in the conversation and you could see how much he loved his family and how much his family loved and needed him as a husband and father.

I don't think it is my place to critique or offer an opinion on the trial, but I do know that Jason Van Dyke is a great man that finds himself in a position that is way outside of the character that I personally know. He is a man that has lived and played by the rules. He is a man that has genuine concern and compassion for others. He is a man that has much to contribute to society as a whole.

It is my hopes that you can find it within your authority and compassion to render a sentence equal to that of a first-time offender.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter.

Sincerely,



Jack Byrnes

October 11, 2018

The Honorable Vincent M. Gaughan  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave. Rm. 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan,

Over the past three years I have had the honor of knowing Jason Van Dyke. I have found Jason to be an amazing human being. He is a devoted Christian, husband, father and friend. He is always willing to help anyone who asks. He was an asset to the Chicago police department for 15 years. He was always a professional in the handling of the citizens of the city of Chicago.

I am a retired Chicago police officer having served the city of Chicago for 32.5 years and the Cook County State's Attorney's office for 9 years.

I sincerely hope that you can grant Jason Van Dyke leniency in your sentencing.

Thank you for any consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert T. Baikie  
Chicago, IL

October 10, 2018

Vincent Gaughan  
Judge  
Circuit Court of Cook County  
2650 South California Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60608

Dear Judge Gaughan:

I am writing this letter in regards to my friend, Jason Van Dyke.

I'm a former police officer and retired military. I am also the Commander of American Legion Post 1993. I have met a lot of people in my life some good, some bad. Jason is one of the nicest people I have ever met. We work together at our Knights of Columbus Chicago Police Council providing help and assistance to people less fortunate than ourselves. He's always there to help. When you belong to an organization like ours, you have to be a good person to want to make the world a better place and be there for your fellow brother.

Being a Police Officer isn't an easy job. I grew up, the son of a Chicago Police Officer. In those days, your respected the police officers and did what they told you to do. They were there to keep an eye on you as well as the community. I don't know what happened to those days but, I miss them. Every day, these men and woman go out and run towards danger when everyone else is running away. They are spit on, harassed, threatened and shot at. But, when these people need help, they always call the police and the police respond like loyal soldiers. These men and woman are human and have frailties. They sometimes get PTSD and other issues. If you work in a war zone long enough, you are going to get some scars, some seen, some not.

Jason Van Dyke is a great Police Officer. He made a split second decision that is now going to haunt him the rest of his life. He didn't go out and want to kill someone, he's not that type of guy. The pressures of the job and a split decision can go either way. Sometimes, you wrong either way, especially these days. Every day these men are being second guessed by Monday morning quarterbacks and criticized. Sometimes, there is no right way. Jason, always went to work to make Chicago a safer place for the members of the community. He also, wanted to make sure he protected himself and his fellow officers to ensure they would make it home to his/their loved ones.

Don't let prosecutors sway you as to the type of man Jason Van Dyke is. He's a great police officer, husband, father and son. Don't let a split second decision in battle define how you think about Jason. I'm not trying to diminish the life of Laquan Mc Donald in any way. His life was precious and I'm sure Jason would have wanted a different ending.

I'm asking you to show some compassion for Jason Van Dyke. He knows that he made a mistake and he is truly sorry for the life that he took.

I hope this gives you some insight into my friend and brother Knight so, you can see the real person that will be standing in front of you.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

God Bless,

Terry D. Cornell  
3100 West 101<sup>st</sup> Place  
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805  
312-909-1821  
tcornelljr@aol.com

To: Judge Vincent Gaughan

From: Edwin B. MacDonald

I am writing this letter on behalf of Jason Vandyke in order to share my insight into his fine character, morality, and strong potential for returning to a productive and law abiding citizenship. In my opinion, this one tragic day should not define him as a person.

To introduce myself, Jason is my first cousin (my mother and his father are brother and Sister). In addition to being an involved family member, I am a retired Army soldier and currently a business manager in the Defense industry. This history helped me to build a substantial insight to stressful individual combat crises and the traumatic challenges of first responders. I served in our Armed Forces for 22-years, half of the time with the elite 82d Airborne Division and the second half with the United States Army Recruiting Command. For the last 16 years and now as a Vice President, I have led 300-plus diverse employees and a complex spectrum of defense contracts providing emergency management services to both military and civilian First Responders. This extensive career of leadership, counseling, and working with the "whole person" concepts of individual development for responders under extreme pressures, has given me a perspective on the tremendous rehabilitation potential for Jason.

While I spent majority of my adult life in the military, however my wife, child and I were always managed to spend time with his family. Jason was always compassionate, polite, and completely supportive of others. He always expressed his goals of serving his country and his community. With his consistent sense of self sacrifice and service, I always knew he would be going to go be a police officer or fire fighter. As he got older, we had more serious conversations and he told me he wanted to serve his community as a Chicago police officer. I supported his decision as did the rest of his immediate and extended family. The only advice I added was make sure he made time for additional education. While Jason served as a police officer, I had retired from the military and we had more opportunities become closer and to understand his promising potential.

I would like to tell you about one event that should give you a window on what kind of man Jason really is. When President Obama pursuing his second Inauguration, Jason was selected be part of the police security detail. He was excited and proud of himself, as he should have been. He called and said he would be staying in Montgomery County Maryland and wanted to visit my family. Of course, I said yes, and we coordinated our schedules when he had free time that Saturday, I picked up Jason and brought him to my house. I have a severely disabled son and Jason insisted on playing with Anthony for hours. He even suggested my wife and I go out for a couple of hours to take a break. Although my wife and I declined the offer it was very heart warming. This is how Jason lived his private life, a very kind and loving person.

As Jason continues his debt to society, please remember that he still has a tremendous character of selfless service to his community and strong potential to quickly return as a productive member upon return.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely  
Edwin B. MacDonald  
First Sergeant U.S. Army (Retired)



Dear Judge Vincent Gaughan,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Jason Van Dyke. I grew up down the street from Jason and went to the same schools as him. He was a couple years older than me but as kids in the same neighborhood we knew each other. He is a good honest person that kept to himself and never caused problems. He always seemed more interested in helping people.

Jason has always had a loving home with a supportive family. During this unfortunate event that has happened I know this has only made them closer and more supportive. When he is allowed out of prison he will have their full support in anyway needed. His father John will do anything in his power to help Jason through this time.

I know that this is a terrible thing that happened but I do think that Jason would never do anything to harm a person unless he felt his life was in jeopardy. Jason has two daughters and works in one of, if not the highest crime cities in the United States to make it a safer place for them and everyone else. He took an oath as a police officer to serve and protect the city of Chicago and he has done that for numerous years without using his weapon. We never know what we would do in a situation but I know one thing when an officer tells me to do something, I do it. No officer will ever need to pull a gun on me because when a police officer asks you to do something, you are required to listen and respect them.

The crime has become so bad in Chicago that I won't let my wife go downtown without me. People feel uncomfortable just going to dinner or putting gas in their car, so if a person was doing what Laquan was doing I definitely would hope police officers would take action. We need to keep the city safe and we can not have people running around like that. Jason was trained by our city to defend and protect us for situations like this and he protected us the best as he was trained to. If Jason failed, then the system that trained him failed. I am just another citizen but I don't understand how a police officer doing his job to protect others can go to jail.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Jonathan Fluder  
Lemont, IL

October 17, 2018

To: Judge Vincent Gaughan

Circuit Court of Cook County

2650 S. California Ave.

Chicago, Il. 60608

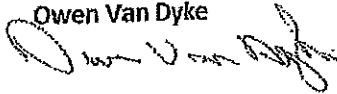
Dear Judge, Gaughan:

I am sitting here writing a letter on behalf of my son JASON.

I would like to start off saying Jason is not the person that was describe by the prosecutor, Jason is tolerant of people's rights. Jason was reading beginner books when he enters kindergarten, also made the honor roll numerous times in grade school, high school, and college. Jason also learn to play two musical instruments, was accepted to join the jazz band in grade school. Played football in grammar school and high school, work a part time job and still maintain focus on his studies. Jason also paid his own way through school, while maintaining a full-time job and raising a family. Jason was chosen to join the TRU UNIT of Chicago police department, was one of the officers that went to Washington DC. To represent Chicago on the security detail President Obama second term, a little later Jason was sent to bomb school in New Mexico. Jason has also received numerous credits from the police department. I don't believe you went this far in the police department on luck, one must have a understanding values of a good policeman is. Jason is also member of Knights of Columbus St. Michael the archangel council 12173. As I stand behind my son, as my father stood behind me, as his father stood behind him, as your parents stood behind you, I hope you find some compassion in this case.

Sincerely

Owen Van Dyke



October 18, 2018

Judge Vincent Michael Gaughan

RE: Jason Van Dyke  
Sentencing on October 31, 2018

Dear Judge Gaughan:

I have known the Van Dyke family for years. Jason is definitely not a murderer. He is a very kindhearted person. He is nothing more than a gentle giant. His wife and children are the same and always a pleasure to be around! Please, I beg of you, do not leave his wife and children without a husband and father. He was doing his job -- "PROTECT AND SERVE!"

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A Great Friend and Neighbor!

October 10, 2018

Frank and Susan Castro  
6436 W. 65th St  
Chicago, IL 60638

The Honorable Judge Vincent M. Gaughan  
Circuit Judge  
Leighton Criminal Court  
2600 S. California Ave., Room 500  
Chicago, IL 60608

Re: Sentencing of Jason Van Dyke

Dear Judge Gaughan,

We are retired Chicago Police officers who proudly served the City of Chicago for twenty-nine years. Frank worked in the 010 District, School Patrol Unit, Public Housing North, Public Housing South and ended his career in the Mass Transit Unit. Susan worked in the 010 District, 008 District, 011 District, Area Two Youth Division and ended her career as a Detective in Area South.

We have known Jason Van Dyke socially, outside of work, for four years and have found him to be a dedicated family man who places his family first. Jason is caring, kind-hearted and authentic.

We ask that you please impose only the minimum sentence upon Jason Van Dyke for a decision he made in seconds, without the benefit of hindsight. This conviction will affect Jason and his family for the rest of their lives. We believe Jason deserves a second chance to positively impact his family and our community.

Sincerely,