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*Attorneys for Defendant
Jesse Mendiola Blas*

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE TERRITORY OF GUAM**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JESSE MENDIOLA BLAS,

Defendant.

Criminal Case No. 19-00036

**DECLARATION OF JOSEPH C.
RAZZANO IN SUPPORT OF
SENTENCING**

I, **JOSEPH C. RAZZANO**, hereby declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am over the age of 21 and competent to make this Declaration.
2. I am the attorney of record for Defendant Jesse Mendiola Blas in the above captioned and titled cause and all the statements set forth herein are true and correct and are based on my personal knowledge.
3. Attached as **Exhibit "A"** are true and correct copies of 17 letters from family members and friends written on behalf of Mr. Blas for use at sentencing.

Executed this 4th day of January 2021, at Hagåtña, Guam.

RAZZANO WALSH & TORRES, P.C.

By: 
JOSEPH C. RAZZANO

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, JOSEPH C. RAZZANO, do hereby certify that on the 4th day of January 2021, I will cause to be served, a true and correct copy of the **DECLARATION OF JOSEPH C. RAZZANO IN SUPPORT OF SENTENCING** on the following Counsel of record via electronic service through the Court's CM/ECF System:

Laura Sambataro
Assistant US Attorney
Suite 500, Sirena Plaza
108 Hernan Cortez Avenue
Hagåtña, Guam 96910
Attorneys for United States of America

Executed this 4th day of January 2021, at Hagåtña, Guam

By: 
JOSEPH C. RAZZANO

EXHIBIT A

Beau Clark Blas
283 Wusstig Road
Yigo, Guam 96929
671-685-1714

August 28, 2020

Honorable Justice Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
U.S. District court of Guam

Your Honor,

I write this letter to plead for leniency in regards to the sentencing of Jesse M. Blas.

My name is Beau Clark Blas and I am the son of Jesse Blas, one of five children. As I assume you are aware, it has been extremely difficult for each of us in ways that are profoundly grounding and surreal. Finding words that can properly express how negatively this entire ordeal has affected me and my family isn't as easy for me to do and it has taken some time for me to be able to write this letter to you.

My father is one of the greatest human beings I will ever meet and nowhere the terrible man he has been made out to be. His treatment by the media and justice system has been deplorable, unfair, and vastly undeserved. As a Mayor, my father has done so much good for not only the people of Yona but the people of Guam. A lot of that good is lasting and palpable.

All of that good is now ruined, not only for him but for everyone it affected but I am still hopeful that he will be given a chance to redeem himself. That is why I am pleading with you to be lenient in his sentencing so that he may be given time to give back what has been lost while he is still able. Please give my father a chance.

Very respectfully,

Beau Clark Blas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beau Blas', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief District Judge
U.S. District Court for the District of Guam
520 W Soledad Avenue
Hagatña, Guam 96910

Re: Jesse Mendiola Blas

Hafa Adai Justice Gatewood:

I am writing in a personal capacity regarding former Yofia Mayor Jesse Blas. Over the past several years, Mr. Blas and I have become personal friends through our mutual work on community activities. These activities include the Liberation Day Commemorations and his village health fairs and facility upgrades.

As someone who works very closely with youth and community programs, I believe that the narcotics issue on Guam must be dealt with firmly and swiftly as it so disastrously affects so many people of all ages and circumstances. It is for this reason that I find it extremely difficult to connect the Jesse Blas that I know with the activities for which he was charged and for his admission in his plea agreement.

My knowledge of Mr. Blas' legal issues is limited to information received via media coverage and conversations with his staff. The Jesse Blas that I came to know and work with is not the man described in the press. He certainly showed no indications during our interaction of the activities ascribed to him, and to the plea that he recently entered.

However since he has pleaded guilty, he must now face the consequences of his actions. Despite his plea I believe Mr. Blas still has much to offer the island and trust that this experience will make him an even better man and friend. He is a hard-working and compassionate friend whom I have witnessed working to resolve disputes between and among argumentative constituents and who brought calm to volatile situations which could have easily escalated without his intervention. The Jesse Blas that I know is a good man.

In this regard, as you ponder the sentence you will hand down, I humbly request that his good work in the past and his significant potential for future community contributions and work be heavily considered. Thank you for considering this letter. It is my hope that it will be a positive contributing factor in your decision regarding his sentencing.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase,



William B. Flores

P.O. Box 1266
Hagatña, Guam

March 10, 2020

Honorable Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief Judge
District Court of Guam
4th Floor, U.S. Courthouse

Dear Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood:

Hafa Adai. Your honor, I write this letter to request your favorable decision to grant leniency to Jesse M. Blas, former mayor of Yona. I write this letter in no other capacity than a personal friend. I have known Jesse for many years. He has always shown me the utmost respect in all our interactions and we have treated each other as brothers would. I have never known him to be a man of scrupulous ways. Moreover, he has never shown me that he is a man that I could not trust. Needless to say, his indictment was a total shock and disbelief!

As a personal friend, I was one of the first to publicly ask suggest that he resign his position as mayor. I did this not because I believed he was guilty of the crimes he was charged with. I suggested for him to resign because I believed it was the decent and right thing to do. This would allow his constituents the opportunity to move on with finding leadership for his community since his detention would not allow him to offer that leadership. Eventually, he did resign and now we are on the verge of electing another leader for Yona.

We all make mistakes and we must all pay for those mistakes. While I certainly believe that Jesse should face the consequences of his actions, I only ask for your forgiving heart in giving him an opportunity to proof to all of us that he has learned from this mistake. The price of ending what was a future of hope and dedication to his community and the end of a career that was entrusted to him by the very people he let down is already a heavy punishment. While we all can say that he brought this upon himself, I will stand by him as my friend. We all need others to lift us up when we are down. As the saying goes, "hard times will always reveal true friends"!

I am asking for leniency for his sentencing not because I want to diminish the gravity of his crime. I ask for leniency because Jesse owned up to his mistake and accepted that he did make a mistake. It takes a remorseful person to admit a wrongdoing. I believe his time in detention has given him the opportunity to accept his mistake and to accept whatever punishment he may get.

I only ask that his many years of service to our people not be nullified by an act he undoubtedly regrets today. He is still a decent person. He is still a good father. He is still a good friend.

Thank you, your honor, for your consideration of my request. I write this letter on my own fre will and desire.

Senseramente,



ANGEL R. SABLAN

P.O. Box 20414, Barrigada, Guam (671)488-8961

Cullen C. Blas
283 Wusstig Road
Yigo, Guam 96929

March 3rd, 2020

The Honorable Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
U.S. Courthouse 520 W Soledad Ave
Hagåtña, 96910

Honorable Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood,

I am writing this letter to request for leniency for the defendant, Jesse Mendiola Blas, as he will soon stand before you to receive sentencing for his guilty plea. Jesse Blas is my father and one of the greatest people that I know. He has been serving the community and the people of Guam for practically his entire adult life. He served as a Guam police officer, Superior Court marshal, administrative assistant to former Yona mayors Pedro Terlaje and Ken Joe Ada, as well as serving as the mayor himself. As mayor, he tended to the needs of every individual Yona resident. He supported cultural organizations and also traveled with them as they performed overseas. Jesse also had the Yona gym repaired so that the entire community can use the facility. He has brought the community together several times with events such as fiestas and movie nights. It is clear that he truly cares about others and only seeks to help those in need.

Jesse has helped people for all of his life and has always put others before himself. But enough about his professional career, I want to shed light on Jesse Blas as a father. My dad has played an essential role in my life. Although he and my mom were separated when I was very young, he continued to be the best father that he could be. I can only imagine the challenges that he must have faced while trying to raise me and my four siblings. Although there were challenges, I speak for all my siblings when I say, he has never failed as a father. My dad has guided me throughout my entire life and has always been there for me. My dad is very caring, understanding, and kind. I could always go to him for whatever problems that I have faced and he would do his best to help me through them. My dad has supported me in everything that I do. As I get older and have a family of my own, I can only hope to be half the man that he is. Although he is a great man, he has made a mistake. A mistake that he has owned up to and

acknowledged that he is at fault. The challenges of being a father to five children and the mayor of a village got the best of him and influenced him to give in to temptation. I am sure that my dad regrets the decisions that he made that put him in the situation that he is in today. He and all those that love him have already suffered the consequences of his actions. As I get older, I need the guidance of my father now more than ever. For a first time offender, I ask that you please consider leniency for my dad. Thank you.

Respectfully,


Cullen C. Blas

March 6, 2020

Honorable Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
District Court of Guam
U.S. courthouse
520 W. Soledad Ave.
Hagatna, GU 96910

Dear Honorable Judge Tydingco-Gatewood,

My name is Rose F. Guerrero and I am currently the Administrative Assistant with the Yona Mayor's Office. I have been a resident of Yona for all my forty-two years.

I have known and worked with Jesse M. Blas for six years, and in that time, I have seen many aspects of Jesse's personalities. He is a very humble, caring, loving, generous, hilarious, genuine, passionate, high spirited and well regarded among his community and peers.

Jesse, was without a doubt, an excellent mayor who loved his village. For Jesse, being mayor wasn't just a job, it was an honor for him to continue to do what he loved the most, serving the people of Yona. When constituents call in for help, Jesse would always say yes, and so I had to tell him "Mayor you need to learn to say NO sometimes". But of course, he didn't listen, because it was what he loved to do. It was evident that he loved his staff as well. He empathized when it came to his staff, especially his maintenance staff who work diligently in the heat during the day. He knew how they felt and would always remind them to take a break when it gets too hot or he would pull them in when he knew it was scorching hot. He is very family oriented as well. He's lenient when it came to taking a day off because our children were sick. Jesse would share stories with the staff about his children whom he loves dearly, his financial dilemmas and his health issues. Even with his financial struggles, Jesse was always willing to help others, even if it was his last dollar. Despite his health issues, he would still come to work. That's how committed and devoted he was to his staff and residents.

So, that is why, it was a shock to me to hear of the allegations that were imposed on our mayor, but that did not for a moment, change my mind of the kind of person I've known him to be because all the good he has done for this village, the people and for me and my family had filled my mind and my heart instead. I will be forever grateful to this man for all that he has done for our village and our families.

Your Honor, with all that's been said, I am requesting for leniency for this kind and humble man, Jesse M. Blas. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Rose F. Guerrero



March 6, 2020

Honorable Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood

District Court of Guam

U.S. Courthouse 520 W Soledad Ave.

Hagatna, Gu 96910

Dear Honorable Judge Tydingco-Gatewood,

My name is Masako T. Cruz and I am the Municipal Clerk here at the Yona Mayor's Office and also a resident of Yona for the past 25 years. I write this letter to you today to ask for leniency for the sentencing of former Mayor Jesse M. Blas.

Mayor Jesse hired me as his Municipal Clerk on October 10th, 2018. It was not until he hired me is when I got to know him on a personal level. I remember my first day at work. We had a briefing with all the staff members. He was very warm and welcoming as he introduced me to everyone. "Everyone, this is Masako and she will be our new clerk. I know you all were expecting Miss Guam, but Masako is just as good." Everyone laughed and at that point, I knew I was going to love my new job.

He always walked into the office with a bright smile and said "Good Morning My Staff" which always set a happy mood within our office. We had briefings every morning to discuss the day's schedule with all the staff. At times, he would ask us how our families are doing and he always said "Guys, family is always first." He understands what it means to be a parent so he was always lenient when it came to our kids. Whether it was for doctor's appointments or for parent teacher conferences, he would always think about us being there for our kids.

Working for Mayor Jesse has taught me how much of a hard worker he is. With the Mayor having medical issues, he was always here everyday ready to work. One day when we were having a briefing, and he said something that stuck to me. He said "Pretend that every day is your first day of work so that you put 110% in everything you do." Since then, I've always had that kind of mindset with his voice replaying in my head. With everything that he was going through with his financial struggles and health issues, he still came to work as if nothing was wrong.

I write this letter to you, Judge Tydingco-Gatewood, to ask for leniency with his sentencing because this situation that happened does not define the person that he is. It doesn't change the fact that he is still a good man. He put his whole heart and soul to serve the people of Yona. He did everything he could to make our village a beautiful village. I will forever be grateful for everything that he has done for me and for our community. Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,



Masako T. Cruz

JULIE R. C. QUIDACHAY
1270 NORTH CHALAN KANTON TASI
YONA, GU 96915
671-687-2607

February 24, 2020

Hon. Tydingco-Gatewood

Dear Honorable Tydingco-Gatewood,

I am Julie Quidachay. I am currently the Recreation Leader II for the Yona/ Talofoto Senior Center since February 2019 to present. I am also a cultural practitioner with my children Jude Cruz, Jeffery Quidachay Jr. and Marlay Quidachay with Guma Rasan Acho Latte under the direction of Saina Brian Terlaje from the beautiful village of Yona.

I am requesting leniency at the sentencing of Jesse Mendiola Blas. I know Mr. Blas professionally from his Mayoral Position and also in the community assist residents in the village of Yona.

Mr. Blas assisted the Yona/Talofoto Senior Center before and the duration of his Mayoral term. He joins the seniors and the community in clean-up of the facility and grounds such as cleaning the exterior of the building on days either the weekends, after hours, or while the facility is closed when the seniors are on a field trip or scheduled event. Mr. Blas assist the seniors in safety of the facility by checking the grounds are clear and no loitering within the ground and also the doors are all secured and if there is no force entry. He also requested from Guam Police Department to patrol the area. Mr. Blas assisted the seniors on their 9 days trip to the Philippines from April to May 2019. Mr. Blas schedule the senior for tours in Philippines, travel to Kapangan to watch a pageant competition also scheduled the seniors to tour the Presidential Palace. Also assisted with lodging and grounds transportation. He was always in support for the senior participants and assisted them in any way possible.

Mr. Blas also assisted our dance group with gathering local items such as coconut leaves for skirt making, bamboos for torches, soliciting for social events on island and off island, traveling with the Saina Brian and students as delegates to Yona 2 sister cities in Philippines which is Bataan in Basco Philippines and Kampangan in Baguio Philippines, and joins us on blessing which we call Bendision.

Mr. Blas has pleaded guilty for his criminal offense. He fully understands the severity of his actions. I pray upon your understanding to consider the lower end of the sentencing guidelines. I have faith that the right course of action will be considered by the judicial system. I thank you for accepting this request for leniency.

Sincerely,


Julie Quidachay

David T. Sayama
5 Quirida Court Baza Gardens
Yona, Guam 96915

March 9, 2020

District Court of Guam
520 W Soledad Avenue
Hagatna, Guam 96910

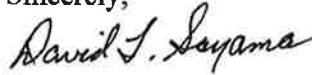
Attention: Honorable Chief Justice Tydigco-Gatewood

I am writing to persuade leniency in the sentencing of my friend Jesse Blas.

I have known Jesse Blas for more than 40 years, since we were neighbors back in the 1970's. He was only a young boy at the time. Throughout the years, he has become a good friend. I was able to see him through the work cycles of his life. When he was a Police Officer, a Superior Court Marshal and saw him through his entire term as the Mayor of Yona. I was happy to be a part of his committee during his mayoral race. I always have believed in Jesse Blas. Of all the good things he has done for the community, not only for the community but my family. He has shown my family and I utmost respect, has even provided his support to us during natural disasters, just as he would to all people in our community. He visited to assure that everyone was fine, that their homes were in good condition, etc. The Mayor was just doing his job and was able to portray how great of a mayor he actually was. He and I are very much aware now of the crime he has been convicted of, but it is still rather difficult to soak it in my mind in accepting what has happened. To be quite honest, this is not the man I know.

Your Honor, I humbly request leniency on my friend. Given his close ties to the community, I strongly believe that a lesser sentence is most appropriate versus a maximum term. I still believe in him that he is a good man.

Sincerely,



David T. Sayama

March 6, 2020

Re: Jesse M. Blas

Hafa Adai and To Whom It May Concern:

This is to attest that I have known Mr. Jesse M. Blas for a period of five years. I initially met Mr. Blas during his tenure as an Administrative Assistant for the Municipality of Yona. Mr. Blas and I connected very well as he always displayed an awesome work ethic with a *can-do* attitude. Following his successful bid as the newly elected Mayor of Yona, we immediately began to work together in assisting one another in different areas for improvement within our respective village. The Municipalities of Agat and Yona support and encourage each other to achieve the goals that we set forth for our constituents and community.

:

Mr. Blas displayed great respect and love for his position and new career as the Mayor of Yona. In all hosted events and projects completed by Mr. Blas as Mayor, he placed his heart and commitment from start throughout completion. I have gained respect for Mr. Blas towards all he has put forth for his municipality with *PRIDE* and *LOVE*.

Along the way, Mr. Blas and I have become great colleagues as well as great friends. It was his loyalty and willingness to be a genuine friend that I will always hold dear for me and my family. His willingness to put the people he serves before himself was and always will be admirable.

In scripture John 8:7 it states, "Let him among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone." No one person is perfect and we must all learn to forgive and learn from one another. Mr. Blas may have hit a bump in his journey, but I believe that if given an opportunity to make or correct his wrong doings, he will be more than able to surpass and rebuild a better way of life.

If you have any questions you can contact me at my office at 565-2524/4335.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin James T. Susuico', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin James T. Susuico
Mayor of Agat

Catherine Blas Franquez
P. O. Box 854
Hagatna, Guam 96932

Honorable Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
Presiding Judge
U. S. District Court
520 W Soledad Ave FL 4
Hagatna, Guam 96910

March 10, 2020

Re: Jesse Mendiola Blas

Dear Judge Gatewood:

I am Catherine Blas Franquez, a sibling of Jesse Mendiola Blas, who's future disposition now rests before the court. I am sixty-three (63) years of age, married with children and grandchildren.

Looking back as Jesse's sibling, I can say, we were both raised in a God-fearing home, taught morals and principles of an honest and productive life. Coming to better understand Jesse's situation has been most difficult and painful for my entire family and I these past few months. Notwithstanding the facts of his case, I can only conclude, that somewhere beyond our days at home, my brother made some poor judgments, bad choices and mistakes which he must now embrace under the auspices of the law and this court.

As a sibling and one who sincerely desires only his well-being in the time ahead, I write to ask that in making decisions regarding his welfare, that the court give due consideration to Jesse as a man:

- who like all others, made a mistake;
- one, in need of help in order that he can holistically recover from all that has gone before;
- who with the right support, can take the opportunity to reassess his life, and to rebuild it on a strong foundation of upright principles, truth, love, healing and forgiveness;
- a man, who can look beyond the immediate, legal consequences of his actions and make a lifetime decision to turn his life around for good.

The bible teaches, "if one is to be forgiven, one must also forgive" and that "love covers all sin". It is in our Lord's Spirit of forgiveness and love, I pray, that in deciding where Jesse will be, that you will grant him just leniency and favorable support for his holistic recovery in his time ahead.

Si Yuus Maase,
Pps yan guinaiga
Catherine Blas Franquez
Catherine Blas Franquez

Claire Clark Ybanez
283 Wusstig Road
Yigo, Guam 96929

March 2, 2020

The Honorable Chief Justice Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
US Courthouse
520 West Soledad Avenue
Hagatna Guam 96910

Hafa Adai Your Honor,

I am writing you to request for leniency for the defendant, Jesse M. Blas as he will be standing before you for sentencing.

Jesse and I were married in 1993. Relationships are not always easy and we parted in 2003. Regardless of our separation, we remained friends and co-parented our two sons together. He always made sure that the kids and I were okay and had what we needed even if he had to make sacrifices for himself. I have known Jesse all of my adult life and I can whole-heartedly say that he is a good man. He is my family.

Through the whole ordeal of his arrest and confinement, many approached me expressing support and telling me stories of how he helped them at one time or another in their lives. Jesse has always had a giving heart. He always said, "Just give, don't offer." He has done a lot of good not only for his family but for the community far beyond just the village of Yona. This one lapse of judgment that has gotten him in this predicament does not define him as a person.

Jesse's children are all adults now but they are all still fairly young. They look up to him for guidance and strength. I respectfully plead with you to please, show him leniency on his sentencing so that he may soon work on fixing all the damages this whole ordeal has brought about to our family and the community that loves him.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Clark Ybanez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Claire Clark Ybanez
(aka Claire Clark Blas)
671-688-1025

The Honorable Chief Justice
District Court of Guam
Frances Tydingco Gatewood

Hafa Adai Your Honor,

On March 02, 2020 a request from Jesse Blas' relative for me to submit this letter was made and I didn't hesitate. On March 04, 2020 I was contacted and told that the letter was already due. This explains why the letter is being transmitted to his Defense Counsel via email, because of a busy business schedule and personal workload.

He will soon stand before Your Honor and face his sentencing for his guilty plea. I submit this letter of "request for leniency" for the defendant, Jesse Blas. He is like a brother to me, for we knew each other since we were about nine years old. I have been very busy which caused me to focus more time with immediate family instead of distant relatives or friends. I am sure though that Jesse's personal challenges more than likely became overwhelming and he fell towards temptation that I am sure he is remorseful for.

Jesse is a good person who probably wouldn't be where he is today if the system didn't allow any non-federal employee to control the mail distribution. He was a good Mayor from what I had learned from a Yona resident. This fact is demonstrated by the following while he was the Mayor of Yona.

He was instrumental in some great programs with our local culture by supporting the Chamorro groups in Yona. He has hosted cultural festivals in Yona. He supported the Baseball teams, improved the Yona gym by fixing the areas in the gym that needed immediate attention. He respected and supported the "manamku programs" for the elderly. He was instrumental with holiday functions for the families in the village of Yona. I am told that basically he got the residents of Yona to be more involved in the community. He has helped the needy there by collecting clothing and furniture after finding out who needed them.

In closing, I respectfully request Your Honor to exercise leniency which may allow her to, in the Rules of Federal Law. Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Respectfully,

Edward S. Toves
727-2335

September 24, 2020

Honorable Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
District Judge, US District Court of Guam
520 Soledad Ave.,
Hagatna, Guam 96910

RE: Mr. Jesse Blas

Your Honor,

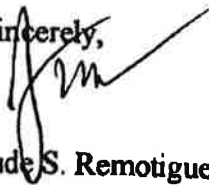
My name is Jude Sarmiento Remotigue. I am a retired Lieutenant with the Guam Police Department and I have worked with Mr. Jesse Blas for many years while I was employed. I have always known him to possess and exude excellent work ethics while he was under my supervision.

Aside from having a work-relationship with Mr. Jesse Blas, he is also a friend; a friend who was always willing to go beyond to help me or my family. There were even times that I can recall in which he was the *only* one who came through to help me when I was in need.

I know that we all, as humans beings –in our nature- are susceptible to making poor judgements sometimes. I also know that by acknowledging our weaknesses and deeply reflecting on our consequences, change is inevitable. I feel that Mr. Jesse Blas has done just that this past year and the changes he has undergone have produced positivity and constructiveness in all his efforts to reconcile with his prior actions that stem from his poor judgement.

I know that if he is granted the opportunity to redeem himself, he will do so –and beyond- by giving back to our community that he has *always* greatly valued. I humbly ask for your consideration in this matter and I thank you for taking the time to read my statement regarding Mr. Jesse Blas.

Sincerely,



Jude S. Remotigue
Retired GPD Lt.

Kendra G Penaso
170 Lemai Drive
Santa Rita, GU 96915

Honorable Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
Judge of United States District Court of Guam
520 W Soledad Ave Ste 4
Hagatna, GU 96910
RE: Sentencing of Jesse Mendiola Blas

Dear Judge Tydingco-Gatewood,

I am Kendra G. Penaso, the daughter of Jesse Blas. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. The reason I am writing is to share with you my relationship with my father and what I believe he deserves for sentencing.

To describe my relationship with my dad, I have endless words. Because I am his only daughter out of five children, one word that comes to mind is security. My dad has always loved and protected me and his family over anything. He's always stood proud of all his children and their accomplishments, even just the smallest ones. I've learned my values of respect, honor, selflessness, hospitality, sensitivity, faithfulness, independence, and love because of him. Not just because he is my father that I know his heart but anyone that knows him will say he is one person to look up too. No one I know better than him that when asked for favors you can truly count on. He LOVES the people that have truly been in his life and is always willing to go miles for them and their families. He's shown and done that since that day I was born. I've never felt unsafe whether I am with or without him. He has made mistakes in the past but takes responsibility. He never asks for much and never expects anything in return. He's always been helpful even on days he can hardly move or is in pain. He never takes anything for granted and always reflects on his doings. The dad I know finds every way to laugh about something. In his exact words, "always find the humor things, life isn't about dwelling on what we can't do but what we can control." Again, the words are endless for me. All I know of him is GOOD. I know his heart and where he belongs.

In closing, these past few months have been the hardest and toughest times to go through. Giving my father his first grandchild made this year even more devastating. With all the circumstances and restrictions needed to follow, I believe there are NO ISSUES. My dad has complied to every order with very minimal concerns and evidently pleaded to his case. His mental and physical health is my biggest concern considering this past year with the pandemic having a major effect on our island. So Judge, I ask that you please lean towards the rightful choice and give him the most lenient sentencing there is possible, or accept that he's already served his time and just bring him home to his family. He is not a danger to the community. Never has been, never was, and never will be.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KGP' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Honorable Judge Tydingco-Gatewood,

March 6, 2020

I am Sarah Clark and Jesse Blas is my son-in-law. Although Jesse and my daughter Claire are no longer married, we are and will always be family. Jesse has a good heart, he is a good father and is very close to my grandsons. His children love and need him. We, my family and I love Jesse and we support him.

I understand that he has pleaded guilty, but I stand before you today to ask for leniency in his sentencing. We all make mistakes, we're human, please give Jesse a chance to redeem himself to our community.

Respectfully,

Sarah Clark
Sarah Clark

653-2831 / 686-2831

March 08, 2020

The Honorable Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
Chief Judge, US District Court of Guam
520 West Soledad Ave.
Hagatna, GU. 96920

Re: Jesse Blas

Dear Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We write to you in hopes of leniency in support of former Yona Mayor, Jesse Blas.


We've known Jesse for over 20 years as he is our former brother in law as well as the father of our two nephews. Jesse had always been a great role model for us personally and was also given rights as our legal guardian in our youth. Respectful, caring and hardworking are just some of the words that can describe him. He is a great father and loyal friend.

His career path had always been about taking care of others and supporting the community. Whether it was his time as a Court Marshall, Guam Police Officer or village Mayor, the safety and well-being of others was always of top priority.

It is understood that he made mistakes; these mistakes of course come with consequences of which he has taken responsibility for. We truly hope that all the good deeds he has done for the community will be considered in this plea for leniency. We know this experience will only encourage him to rebuild himself and regain the respect and trust from his family and the people of Guam.

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,


Sunny Clark-Mesa & Daniel Clark
283 Wusstig Road
Dededo. GU. 96929

Stacey A. Coletta
3921 Hunakai Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

December 25, 2020

The Honorable Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood
U.S. Courthouse 520 W Soledad Ave
Hagåtña, 96910

Dear Honorable Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to write to you. I am writing to humbly and respectfully ask for your leniency when Jesse M. Blas comes before the Court for sentencing.

For over a year now, I have been Jesse's support. We have gone through all the motions that are expected when going through the legal process. Some days have been manageable, others have not been.

I write to you today to tell our story of the last fifteen months and I hope that I can provide perspective and insight about what it truly means to love and support an inmate at the Guam Department of Corrections during a pandemic. The pandemic is of no fault to anyone, but it forced all of us to plan, make decisions and adapt.

When the news of the coronavirus started circulating, I was immediately drawn to all the stories focused on the prisons and the virus' effect on these close quarters. I reached out to the Guam DOC for help and reassurance. Jesse has diabetes, heart problems, sleep apnea, high blood pressure—he has several of the comorbidities associated with a riskier bout with coronavirus, should he be exposed. I asked the prison officials about masks, distancing, education, cleaning supplies—and I was never supported with a response. I stayed focused on releases from the Joint Information Center hoping the Guam DOC would issue public statements about how they planned to keep their quarters as safe as possible. Unfortunately, they released no such statements, other than visitation by family being stopped immediately.

It should be noted that Jesse had a personal CPAP machine that was dropped to the prison on September 24, 2019 and they lost it. He was given a loaned machine (this is my assumption as I believe the receipt slip indicates that it is owned by the US Marshalls) on the 144th day of his incarceration. Further, there was still some time lapse before the medical staff got the machine functioning properly for Jesse's use. It is a different kind of worry—pandemic and prison at the same time—especially at the onset of the pandemic when we were told to be vigilant, especially with the presence of comorbidities.

In a time when cleanliness has taken a greater importance for survival, the DOC had intermittent spurts of incoming allowance. What this meant for us was that hygiene products needed to be rationed until DOC decided when they could support drop offs of products from family members. At a couple points, it seemed like 5 to 6 weeks lapsed before we could provide these necessities to him. Our allowance to drop basic hygiene products to Jesse became dependent on how well the facility was responding to the pandemic.

Since March of 2020, all visitation has stopped. This policy change due to covid did not allow Jesse to see his daughter or new granddaughter (whom he has never met) before they relocated or his son before he deployed to the Emirates. They could not allow him to see me as I battled a cancer scare and subsequently, surgery that resulted in an oophorectomy and salpingectomy. During that time, he made it a point to support me as much as possible—we relied on the comfort of voice to get us through. On the day of my surgery, he got approved by the DOC to call me early in the morning and stayed on the phone with me while they prepped me for surgery, singing to me and reassuring me that there was good news coming and to be brave. We understand the risks associated with the pandemic and have accepted the suspension of visitation for everyone's safety. My hope is that the court will understand how different incarceration is in the time of a pandemic.

On top of the visitation policy being suspended, the phone service provided by the DOC is substandard and expensive. From September 2019 to March 2020, we were required to buy cards and load his account. We

could very rarely ever hear him. Calls were dropped. In March of 2020, I thought the facility was allowing free phone calls due to the pandemic because he could call us for free from March 2020 to September 2020. I later found out there was an operational issue with the phone and the "free" service was actually just an inability to properly stand up the paid service while repairs were ongoing. Prior to the "free" phone calls, we did not hear from him for about a week, except for a nice guard who would call me in the evening just to tell me Jesse was okay. The other instances of the phones going out are too numerous to list here.

I have lived each of the last 10 months in a strange bubble of fear as most of us probably have. There are no supports for family members. There are no supports for prisoners, really. In the time of a pandemic that shook our island, and ultimately shook the Guam Department of Corrections, it seems like the 460 days that Jesse has been in jail feels almost multiplied. The Corrections facility never really shared their mitigation plans with the public – I have looked for reassurance everywhere to get an idea of their precautions so that I could at least know that Jess was as safe as possible. They never gave them masks—I provided that PPE to Jess when they finally allowed it months into the pandemic. I also provided anti-bacterial soap and hand sanitizer (for a short time when it was initially allowed—it is not anymore). Only recently after the outbreaks do they have an consistent schedule of sanitizing. Prior to that, the inmates were sanitizing their own spaces, as they still are, with donated cleaning materials from their family members.

Jesse has made the best of a hard situation. Despite it all, he still feels happiest in giving and service—and for us, this has meant donating hygiene products to inmates whose families are not able or bringing DOC-allowed Christmas snacks for an inmate who would otherwise get none both this Christmas and last. He makes time to pray with and for the inmates in his block and we have provided him with prayer books, as well as Novena and Chamorro song books to help him accomplish this faith fellowship in a time when the DOC is unable to have faith-based organizations in their facility. We spend our precious time on the telephone—me reciting prayers or Scriptures, while he transcribes.

Jesse truly is a kind and compassionate man. He is a loving dad. He is a caring brother. He is a gentle being who has grown with me in faith and love. He is a man who made a mistake—one that cost him everything. He has chosen to focus on overcoming all of this—as he has lost everything and must rebuild. The media has portrayed him as a monster, but I know his heart. The hundreds of days that the media chose to run his shameful photos hurt us so, but we could only be hurt for a little bit so we could instead focus on recovery and coping. Prior to his incarceration, I saw him in action helping people. I heard his heart when he talked about community and family. For me, I suppose all the negative media and the stress and anxiety of all of this should have prompted me to leave. God knows that I was dealt my own blows from people who knew me and even people who did not. I did not leave, though. I chose instead to forgive—and through reflection, testimony, and prayer focused on scripture—I can attest that Jesse has become a better person who has learned from the multitude of experiences and consequences and hardships in the last year and some months.

I have since moved away from Guam and we are facing yet another finding of tumors so soon after my first bout. Jess calls me and manages through prison walls, and now, an ocean, to sing to me when I do not feel well, to tell me jokes when I am frustrated, and to provide comfort—even if his own situation is not comfortable at all. I have always known that Jess is a good person with a good heart.

I thank you again for allowing me to write and share a little bit of our story and pray the court will consider leniency during sentencing.

Respectfully,


Stacey Coletta