

## OFFICE OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

WESLEY BELL  
Prosecuting Attorney

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February 25, 2020

The Honorable Judge Audrey G. Fleissig  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri  
111 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Clayton, MO 63102  
Sara\_armbrecht@moed.uscourts.gov

Re: Dr. Brij Vaid- Cause No. 4:18-cr-00279-AGF

Dear Judge Fleissig:

On February 25, 2020, this office became aware of an unauthorized character reference letter ("Reference") written by a prosecuting attorney in our office, signed "Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office", on behalf of a federal defendant known as Dr. Brij Vaid. Please understand, this office was not aware of the case against this individual, (as a practice) does not engage in attempts to weigh in on cases not involving our office -state or federal- with respect to sentencing and, at no time, authorized any of our prosecutors to comment on anyone's behalf.

Neither this office nor any assistant prosecuting attorney in this office has the authority to unilaterally provide a character reference in any case nor for any defendant. The assistant prosecuting attorney in this matter does not speak for my office. To the contrary, we do not agree with the content of his unauthorized Reference and, to the extent this office would weigh in on any matter it would be on behalf of victims and their families.

Thank you for your immediate attention in this matter and should you have any questions with respect to the content of this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. Bell", written over a horizontal line.

Wesley Bell  
Prosecuting Attorney  
St. Louis County, Missouri