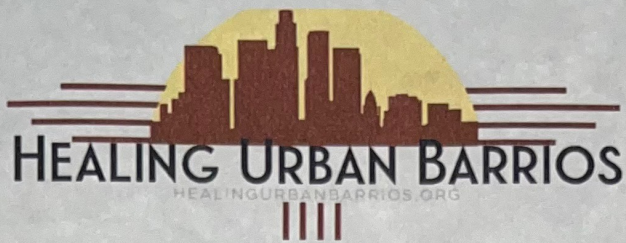


I, _____, declare as follows:

1. As a teenager, I fell in with the gang from my neighborhood. My involvement with the gang sent me down a path of drug addiction that lasted nearly fifteen years. My addiction clouded my judgment and led me to stay involved with the gang. In that time, I burned bridges with family members and people in my community who tried to help me and committed crimes that I regret sincerely.
2. After my last conviction, I decided to make a change and move past my mistakes. I resolved to get clean once and for all, and I have been clean since my release in May of 2018. I view my conviction in 2016 as a blessing in disguise and a moment that ultimately saved my life. Since my release, I have worked hard to become a new man.
 - a. I have stayed clean for the past five years.
 - b. I successfully completed probation from my 2016 conviction.
 - c. I married my girlfriend, who supported me throughout my addiction, and we have had two children. My family has become my whole life.
 - d. I have been steadily employed since my release, first working as an HVAC technician and now working as a hospital custodian.
 - e. Last year, I decided to go back to school, and this June I received my Associate's Degree in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration from Mt. San Antonio College. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is my A.S. degree.
 - f. I have volunteered over the past five years with the GYRD Foundation and with Homies Unidos in Los Angeles. In my volunteer work, I speak with kids from similar neighborhoods to the one I grew up in. I show them the reality of the gang lifestyle that they see around them, and I try to be a positive role model. I also help with food drives and other important work in the community. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a Letter of Recommendation from the organizations I volunteer with.
3. As I have become a family man over the past five years, my primary focus has become providing for my family. I have been incredibly proud to earn my degree this past June and take another step to lead a normal life and be a role model for my kids and my community.
4. I plan to use my degree in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration to become an HVAC contractor and start my own business to provide a better and more stable life for my family. However, my convictions are a roadblock for me to obtain my C-20 Contractor's License from the state, and I have been turned down for other jobs due to my record.
5. I take full responsibility for my past actions, but I believe my record does not reflect the man I am today. I have moved past my addiction, and with it, I have left behind the gang lifestyle that nearly ruined my life. Instead, my time is spent on my family and my

community. I am asking the court for dismissal to give me a second chance to lead a normal life and help me build a successful future for my family.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on 09 / 18 / 2023.



June 30,2023

To whom it may concern,

My name is Wilfredo Melendez and I am a Lead Community Intervention Worker with Healing Urban Barrios serving the Olympic, Hollywood and Rampart zone of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) program in the City of Los Angeles. It is our mission to equip underserved communities with the tools, resources, and support needed to overcome barriers to success. We are committed to breaking cycles of poverty, violence, low educational attainment, and under-employment in our communities by empowering youth, young adults, adults and their families through wrap-around services, including case management, mentorship, job training and career readiness, educational workshops, crisis intervention, peace mediation, re-entry and post-release services.

As an Intervention Worker, I regularly engage with justice system-impacted youth and adults, I encourage them to take advantage of the resources we offer. I write this letter in support of [REDACTED]. He has maintained active participation through attendance and volunteerism. When He first walked in our office, [REDACTED] sought help and was looking for change. He was eager to learn about our work and participate in our programming by volunteering his time with us. [REDACTED] has demonstrated willingness and receptiveness to the services that we offer. We were very happy to assist [REDACTED] with his HVAC classes that he was able to finish and graduate from this course. [REDACTED] is a father of two kids and has left his past behind to show he can be a good parent. [REDACTED] has overcome gang violence and drug addiction. I am confident that [REDACTED] has learned his lesson in life and deserves to clean and expunge his record for future job opportunities. [REDACTED] continues to come to our program to seek guidance and assistance. We are willing to continue helping [REDACTED] so we can reduce the cycle of recidivism.

I hope that you will take this letter into consideration on this matter.. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any further questions, you may reach me at ([REDACTED])

Respectfully,

GRYD Lead Intervention Worker- [REDACTED]

MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

Certificate of Achievement

is presented to



has satisfactorily completed a program of study in

AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION

as prescribed by the Mt. San Antonio College Board of Trustees and is entitled to all of the privileges and distinctions bestowed thereby.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William T. Scroggins".

William T. Scroggins, Ph.D.
President & CEO



On this 11th day of June, 2023

Mt. San Antonio Community College District

Mt. San Antonio College

Upon the recommendation of the faculty and under the authorization granted by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges the degree of

Associate in Science

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration

is hereby conferred upon



with all the rights and privileges thereto pertaining.

Given at Walnut, California, this eleventh day of June, two thousand twenty-three.

William J. Sengwin

President/WE®



President of the Board of Trustees

Lois Muel

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