

APRIL 19, 2010

THE HONORABLE GEORGE H. WU
JUDGE, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
312 NORTH SPRING STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

DEAR JUDGE WU,

YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TELL YOU ABOUT MYSELF IN MY OWN WORDS AND I WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OFFER. I KNOW I AM MORE THAN A NAME ON THE INDICTMENT IN THIS CASE AND I HAVE A LOT OF HOPES FOR MY FUTURE THAT I WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT.

MY NAME IS MIGUEL PARRA. I WAS 20 YEARS OLD WHEN I GOT ARRESTED IN THIS CASE AND NOW I AM 22 YEARS OLD. I WAS BORN IN SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

I WAS AROUND 14 YEARS OLD WHEN MY DAD WHEN AWAY, I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE ELSE WHOSE FATHER WAS IN JAIL. MY LIFE WAS FAR FROM PERFECT AS MY DAD WAS IN PRISON DURING MY UPBRINGING. WHEN MY DAD WENT TO PRISON, MY MOM HAD TO WROK 3 JOBS, AND WAS HARDLY AROUND TO BE A MOTHER DUE TO THE DEMAND OF MULTIPLES JOBS TO SUPPORT HER FAMILY.

SIR, WITH THE ABSENCE OF MY A FATHER FIGURE, COMBINED WITH MINIMAL SUPPORT FROM MY MOTHER MY DIRECTION IN LIFE WAS STEERED BY UNITY AND SUPPORT IN THE GANG I ISSOCIATED WITH, "GANGS" OFFER A SENCE OF BELONGING AND FOR ONCE I FELT WELCOME AND WANTED OPPOSED TO THE VACANCY I FELT WITH MY FAMILY.

UNFORTUNATELY, "GANGS" PROMOTE CRIME AND CONFLICT IN THE COMMUNITY. I WAS ENGULFED IN THE FIERY SIDE EFFECT OF GANG LIFE AND FOUND MYSELF ENGAGING IN ACTIVITIES THAT WERE CHOSEN BY A GROUP, INSTEAD OF MYSELF. MY INDEPENDENCE HAD ELUDED ME ENTIRELY,

MY LIFE WAS DRASTICALLY CHANGED THE FIRST WEEKS OF OCTOBER 2008, BY WHAT I FEEL ARE THE TWO EVENTS THAT WILL POSITIVELY AFFECT MY LIFE FOREVER. AND MY FIRST BABY WAS BORN AND I WAS ARRESTED BY THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES. SIR, MY CHILD GIVES ME ALL THE REASON IN THE WORLD TO CHANGE MY LIFE FOR THE BETTER AND MY INCARCERATION GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET AWAY FROM MY OLD ENVIROMENT, AND DEAD

END LIFESTYLE, THAT I ENTERED UNDER FALSE HOPES AND PROMISES. I WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING TO USE THIS TIME TO OBTAIN REDEMPTION AND COME OUT OF THIS SITUATION THE MAN "I" KNOW I CAN BE.

MY GOALS FOR THE FUTURE ARE TO KEEP MY SOBRIETY, GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND GET MY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND AFTER REGISTER TO A CITY COLLEGE, AND MY MOST IMPORTANT LONG TERM GOAL IS TO BE A GOOD FATHER TO MY BOY ANTHONY. I'M GOING TO DO THIS BY GOING TO A.A CLASSES AND TALKING TO MY PROBATION ON PARENTING CLASSES ALSO. I PLAN TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO FINISH MY CREDITS THAT I NEED TO GET MY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND AFTER I GET IT I PLAN ON DOING MORE RESEARCH ON A SCHOOL THAT IS IN OXNARD ABOUT CONSTRUCTION . I AM GOING TO BE THEIR FOR MY SON, WHATEVER HAPPENDS BETWEEN YESI AND ME,I WILL FIND AWAY TO BE THERE FOR MY SON AND I WILL BE MORE THAN A WEEKEND FATHER. I WANT TO BE THEIR TO HOLD MY BABYS HAND AND STEER HIM IN THE DIRECTION THAT I WOULD HAVE GONE "IF" I HAD THE RIGHT GUIDANCE. LIFE IS WORTH AN ETERNITY OF SMILES AND THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE THEM IS TO GET IT RIGHT, FOREVER.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND CONSIDERATION,

MIGUEL PARRA