DATE

You’re Name, Title Address

Re: Bond hearing, Name of Applicant, A# To Whom It May Concern:

My name is YOUR NAME. I began visiting APPLICANT in MONTH YEAR as a member of the VISITATION PROGRAM. VISITATION PROGRAM is a member of Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement (CIVIC) and operates a community visitation program at DETENTION FACILITY to provide a connection to the outside world for people in immigration detention.

Paragraph #1: From the first moment I met APPLICANT, I was struck by X QUALITY. *[Discuss what your relationship with APPLICANT means to you and how APPLICANT is a valuable member of the community. Share specific stories about good things he has done for you -- this is harder if you only have known him in detention, but you can speak to his demeanor here.]* Example: I didn’t realize what kind of an effect visiting someone in immigration detention would have on me, but since I met APPLICANT, I find myself thinking about him and realizing that he has so much to offer that is being wasted. I think about him, wonder how he can sit there all day long, day after day. He could be contributing so much. He has helped me to appreciate my own life and my own privileges. From my dozen or so visits with him, I know he will be an asset to any community. As far as I know, he has had exemplary behavior in detention. We always have good conversations when I visit.

He enjoys hearing about my family, about our adventures. He would like to travel around the world some day, to get to know people from other countries. He has become friends with a Vietnamese man in detention, for example. He likes to fish and has told me stories of previous fishing trips. He really wants to make the world a better place. I can tell he appreciates my visits. Since his own family is unable to visit, I have become “his family away from home.”

Paragraph #2: He has a good sense of humor. *[Discuss another positive quality]* Example: When asked how he was doing once when two of us were visiting him, he said “Well, I’ve got two visitors so I’m doing pretty good right now.”

Paragraph #3: I see the VISITATION PROGRAM being a support to him when he gets released. *[Discuss what, if anything, you and your visitation program can do to make sure APPLICANT will attend hearings and comply with orders. What you can offer to ensure that his return to non-detained living is smooth and comfortable (e.g., help him enroll in classes or find a job)]*

Paragraph #4: I hope you will release APPLICANT from immigration detention so that he has a better chance of finding an attorney to properly represent him before this Court. As you know, APPLICANT is representing himself pro se before the Court. In 2010, the Study Group on Immigrant Representation, convened by Judge Robert Katzmann of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, together with the Vera Institute of Justice began a two-year Study of the immigrant representation crisis in New York. The Study found 97 percent of detainees without lawyers lost their cases, while 74 percent of immigrants who were not detained and had counsel succeeded. APPLICANT and VISITATION PROGRAM have worked tirelessly to find APPLICANT a pro bono lawyer. [EXPLAIN WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.] Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful, which is not surprising, as 84 percent of people in immigration detention are not represented. It is likely that if APPLICANT were released from immigration detention and allowed to fight his case on the outside, he would be able to find an attorney. In the meantime, APPLICANT has tried his very best to [appeal his case, request a bond hearing].

Paragraph 5: Conclusion or anything else you would like to say.

I swear, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: Date:

Printed Name: Phone