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Passaic County Superior Court
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STATE OF NEW JERSEY,

Plaintiff,

v.

DEMETRICK WILLIAMS,

Defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
LAW DIVISION: PASSAIC COUNTY

Accusation No. 08-09-0843-A

CRIMINAL ACTION

**CERTIFICATION OF
DEMETRICK WILLIAMS**

I, DEMETRICK WILLIAMS, of full age, hereby certify as follows:

1. I am the Petitioner herein. I am offering this certification in support of my application for an expungement pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:52-2a(2).
2. The facts set forth in my Petition for Expungement are true, and I incorporate them herein by reference.
3. The charges made against me in Accusation No. 08-09-0843-A relate to an incident that resulted in arrest in February of 2008. At no time since that date, have I ever been involved with the criminal justice system, as I have not been charged with any crime, disorderly persons offense, petty disorderly persons offense, or ordinance violation in New Jersey or in any other jurisdiction. Prior to the 2008 arrest, in 1997, I pleaded guilty in Wayne Municipal Court to a single violation of N.J.S.A. 2A:170-77.8, which is not classified as a crime, but rather a disorderly persons offense.

4. My guilty plea to, and conviction for, the single fourth degree crime listed in the Accusation, was over six and one half (6.5) years ago. The arrest was over eight (8) years ago.
5. Prior to the conviction that is the subject of this Petition, I had no criminal record, meaning no felony convictions. I did, however, plead guilty to a disorderly persons offense in 1997, which was over eighteen (18) years ago, at which point I was nineteen (19) years old.
6. Since my plea to the Accusation and conviction in 2008, I have no criminal record. I further do not have any convictions for any disorderly persons offenses, petty disorderly offenses, or municipal ordinances in this jurisdiction or any other. I pride myself on living a law-abiding, socially productive life.
7. The disorderly persons activity that is the subject of my guilty plea in Wayne Municipal Court, namely the possession of a small amount marijuana, was the product of my youthful ignorance and naïvete. I was nineteen (19) at the time. I should note that the offense did not involve weapons or any substances other than marijuana. Still, of course, they constitute actions I whole-heartedly regret and have permanently turned away from.
8. The events that led to my arrest and guilty plea to the Accusation consist of myself requesting that a fifteen (15) year old student at Passaic Valley Regional High School, where I taught, take a photograph of her breasts on my cellular phone.
9. I shudder to think now about how imprudent and shameful those actions were.
10. In taking responsibility for my conduct, I applied myself to complying with the terms of my probation. I did not have any victim contact, I did not seek employment teaching

children, I reported as directed, I remained employed, I paid all fines, and I abided by the law in all respects.

11. After fourteen (14) months on probation, my probation officer recommended that I be discharged early from probation, noting: "I believe he has demonstrated the ability to conduct himself properly in the community and remain out of trouble." (See Exhibit E).
12. On June 7, 2010, Judge Caposela agreed and terminated my probation as having successfully complied. (See Exhibit E).
13. Following my conviction, I returned to school and dedicated myself to excelling academically, completing my doctorate in higher education, teaching, and learning at Argosy University. I received my master's degrees from Montclair State University. I now serve as an adjunct professor at Rowan University, where I have developed new lectures and curricula for online courses, prepared students for the real world application of technology, designed and developed professor and student research projects, and I sit on the university's committee for dissertations.
14. I have also spent my time developing, presenting, and publishing materials in my field. For example, for my dissertation, I studied the correlation between participation in the federal government's Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) initiative for educational reform that began in the late 1990's and low socioeconomic status (SES) student enrollment in higher education. I then served as Principal Investigator and author for a study titled, "The Influence of GEAR UP on Academic Achievement and College Enrollment for Low SES Learners," for the Northeastern Educational Research Association's (NERA) Annual Conference in 2013. It explored problems for low SES students and methods by which academic achievement

and college enrollment could be improved within the context of GEAR UP. Ultimately it showed that there is a significant quantitative correlation between participation in GEAR UP and academic achievement for SES students. It can be found online here: http://digitalcommons.uconn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=nera_2013

15. I also served as Principal Investigator for a chapter titled "Instructional Design for a Technological Learning Environment," for the textbook: "Enhancing Teacher Education with Advanced Instructional Technologies." The chapter focuses on the shifting needs of students, who are increasingly technologically advanced, and how faculty and instructional designers can respond and adapt to the evolution of the learning environment. Its purpose is to aid faculty in designing curricula that meets the needs of students by aiding them with the trial and error of the development phase.
16. I serve as a peer reviewer for NERA in evaluating submissions for their annual conference. I am also a member of the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA).
17. I have presented on the "Availability and Characteristics of Library Resources for Educational Research" at the EERA Conference in 2014, on "The Influence of GEAR UP on Academic Achievement and College Enrollment for Low SES Learners." At the NERA Conference in 2013, and on "Ethics in Collecting and Analyzing Data," before the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA) in 2013.
18. My absolute dedication to higher education in teaching classes at Rowan, analyzing how socioeconomically disadvantaged students to have access to higher education, as well as finding ways for students to employ technology in the classroom in a manner that most benefits the student learning process, has provided meaning for me. I sincerely feel that

my greatest contributions to my community have been, and will continue to be made through higher education classrooms, as I endeavor to improve education for not only low-income students, but all students.

19. Perhaps my proudest achievement, which serves to remind me of the value of leading an honest, law-abiding, productive life, is my family. I have been married for nine (9) years. Since the arrest, the bond between my wife and I has strengthened. She has been my rock throughout the process and subsequently. We have also had two (2) beautiful children, who are truly the light of my life. We spend most of our time together, finding strength in each other and through our church.
20. In my spare time, I have returned to Taekwondo to complete my black belt and to master myself as a good father, husband, and person. Taekwondo has allowed me to contribute to my community by visiting elderly facilities to volunteer through demonstrations for the residents. I have also taken part in benefits for cancer, and I have assisted my school's master in helping other adult students develop their skills. A letter from my school's master is attached hereto as Exhibit H.
21. I do not believe that I was predisposed to commit the crime for which I was convicted, but consider it, rather, an aberration from the manner I have always conducted myself, and the manner in which I intend to continue to conduct myself.
22. Over the course of the eight (8) years since my arrest, I have focused on steering clear of any type of behavior that could result in another arrest or conviction for my own sake and the sake of my family. I feel shame and regret with respect to my conviction and have done everything I can do to move beyond it. I have always tried to do the right thing and feel that I have good character. In support, I have attached three (3) letters from people

who have known me over the course of many years. (Attached hereto as Exhibits H, I, and J).

23. Being placed on probation marked an opportunity to lead my life in a way that would not jeopardize the things I hold most dear. Since then, I have been able to conduct myself in a manner consistent with the caring, hard-working, and supportive family man I strive to be.

24. I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true to the best of my knowledge.

I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Demetrick Williams', written in a cursive style.

DEMETRICK WILLIAMS

Dated: December 9, 2015