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July 19, 2004

Sheriff Michael W. Neustrom
Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office
Post Office Box 3508
Lafayette, LA 70502-3508

RE: State of Louisiana v. Terry Glen Smith
16th Judicial District Court
Criminal Docket Number: 01-215755
St. Martin Parish, Louisiana

Dear Sheriff Neustrom:

On July 6, 2004, I was scheduled to prosecute Terry Glen Smith in the referenced action on first degree murder charges. Although the extant crime occurred in St. Martin Parish, several of your officers assisted in the arrest of Smith who had fled to Lafayette Parish. One of the deputies involved was Detective Kip Judice. Also, a current employee of your office, Scott Haydel, was involved in the case since he was employed by the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office at the time of the offense.

In preparing for trial, it was necessary that I confer with both Deputy Judice and Deputy Haydel on several occasions. Also, their testimony was adduced in many pretrial hearings. You should note that on every single occasion that I needed either

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Deputy Judice or Deputy Haydel, each made himself available **at my convenience**. Moreover, at all times, they were fully prepared to testify, and they always presented themselves in an exemplary, professional manner.

Surprisingly, Smith pled guilty to first degree murder prior to trial, and he received a mandatory life sentence without benefit of probation, parole, or suspension. It is obvious to me that his 11th hour guilty plea was the product of my office's commitment to prosecuting him to the fullest extent of the law. However, I could not have achieved that level of preparedness without the assistance of Deputy Judice and Deputy Haydel. As a matter of fact, during the week preceding the trial date, both deputies had made arrangements to confer with me for final pretrial preparations.

Deputies Judice and Haydel are clearly a credit to your department. I look forward to having the occasion to work with your office in the future, and I am pleased to know that dedicated law enforcement officers such as Deputies Judice and Haydel will be available to provide invaluable assistance to me when and if needed.

I extend my appreciation to Deputies Judice and Haydel for their very fine, professional, and dedicated work. Simply put, without them, a successful prosecution of Smith would have been extraordinarily more difficult.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Chester R. Cedars

CRC/pavs

cc: Mr. J. Phil Haney

✓ cc: Deputy Kip Judice

cc: Deputy Scott Haydel