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July 28, 2020

Mr. Jemell Lamar Rayam
Register Number 62929-037
FMC ROCHESTER
FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTER
P.O. BOX 4000
ROCHESTER, MN 55903

Dear Mr. Rayam:

As you know, we wrote to you in January requesting an interview. We wanted to discuss the factors in your life and career that led you to engage in the conduct that led to your indictment, guilty plea, cooperation with the government, and the sentence you are now serving. We also wanted to know how your career experiences in the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) and matters in your personal life (financial pressures, etc.) played a role in your engaging in that conduct, and whether you think things would have turned out differently for you if your training, your supervision, or other parts of your experience within BPD would have been different than they were. The goal is to understand, not to criticize or condemn.

You called me shortly after receiving my letter and said you were not interested in doing so because you saw no personal advantage in doing so. Several times during the call, you asked, “What’s in it for me?”

After learning more about you from reading your trial testimony, having access to your debriefings by the FBI Task Force, and reviewing your guilty plea and sentencing proceedings, that doesn’t sound like you. Since our discussion, we have learned much more about you. We have learned that you are the son of public servants – your father was a police officer, your mother was a schoolteacher, and your three siblings all work in the education system as teachers or administrators. We know that you have children of your own, and that setting a good example means something to you. I have read your comments at your sentencing hearing on August 21, 2019, during which you apologized repeatedly – and it seemed sincerely – to the City of Baltimore, the people of Baltimore, BPD, and the members of your family, including your children. Your expressions of regret seemed sincere.

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We have spoken to one of the defendants in this case and found our lengthy discussion with him (by video) to be extremely helpful in understanding the factors that led him to engage in the conduct that led to his conviction. As a result, when we tell his story in our report, it will be based in significant part on what he told us. We are making arrangements to speak with a second defendant, whose story we will also tell, at least in part from his point of view. We will also tell your story, whether or not you decide to speak with us – but if we are unable to speak directly with you, it will not include your voice and your perspective.

We hope that you will change your mind about speaking with us. It would be helpful to us in completing our assignment, but it would also potentially be of great value to BPD recruits and young officers. If they could hear from you and other defendants in the case about the choices you made and why you made them, it might well help them to avoid the pressures and turn away from the temptations that you faced. It would make good on your apology to BPD.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Bromwich

cc: Honorable Catherine C. Blake
United States District Judge

Honorable James K. Bredar
United States District Judge