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May 3, 2024

**The Honorable Anthony Milisauskas**  
Kenosha Co. Circuit Court, Br. 4  
Kenosha County Courthouse  
912 56<sup>th</sup> St.  
Kenosha, WI 53140

RE: State of Wisconsin vs. John Steinbrink, Jr.  
Case No. 22 CF 983  
Letters in Support of Defendant  
Change of Plea and Sentencing Hearing May 3, 2024 at 8:30am

Dear Judge Milisauskas,

Please find attached letters that we ask the Court to consider at the time of sentencing.

These letters are from:

1. Michael J. Serpe
2. Micky Day
3. Jesse Houle, P.E.
4. Michael Pollocoff
5. Raymond A. Merlin
6. Attorney Roberta Puntillo
7. Michael R. Zacker

Sincerely,

Electronically Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Carl B. Johnson**

Attorney at Law

State Bar No. 1059490

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Kenosha County Eye

I, Michael J. Serpe, am sending this memo to be offered at the up-and-coming hearing involving John Steinbrink Jr. I held the position of Trustee #4 for the Village of Pleasant Prairie for thirty-one years. I have known John Steinbrink for almost that length of time. I watched John work as a laborer for Public Works for the Village and eventually obtaining an engineering degree and moving to the position of Director of Public Works. John oversaw the street department, sewer and water department and parks. When attending a Village Board meeting to answer questions concerning his departments, John was extremely knowledgeable of the issues facing the Board. Issues that needed immediate attention were handled in a very professional manner. No matter the time of day, if an issue needed quick attention concerning an issue with public works, John was there to take care of it. John demanded his employees to do the best job they could to keep the residents of the Village satisfied. John also went over and above when he took on the design and installation of a bridge that was needed for the Kenosha County Park and Ride across from the RecPlex. That project, I believe saved the Village over \$100,000.00. I have always felt comfortable when John undertook a Village project. I knew it would be done in a timely manner and done right.

I never in thirty-one years' felt the need to question John's honesty and integrity. I strongly feel the Village lost a valuable employee when John left his employment.

All I ask is that John be given a fair and unbiased hearing.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Serpe, Retired Assistant Chief of Police, City of Kenosha  
Retired Trustee #4, Village of Pleasant Prairie

Micky Day  
11013 122<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158  
847-514-5423  
mickyday@dkcontractors.net

RE: John Steinbrink

To Whom it may concern,

I have personally known John Steinbrink since he was in high school. He had always been a great student and a polite young man. Not only was he active in sports, but also in organizations such as 4H. He worked tirelessly on the family dairy barn all through high school and college. I can attest to John's character and strong commitment to help not only his family but the community.

Professionally I have worked with John over 20 years. I serve as Chair of the Pleasant Prairie Park Commission. His dedication was unwavering. He was always there to assemble park equipment; coordinate special events and develop numerous programs. Working in the park programs John was known to mentor many young adults.

I also own a construction company located in Pleasant Prairie. We have been awarded several projects in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. John Steinbrink would be the official to maintain quality workmanship. We always found John to be knowledgeable and fair. He always was available to discuss schedule and any other issues that may occur on the jobsite.

Respectfully

*micky day*

Micky Day

To the Honorable Anthony Milisaukas,

John and I met in college in early 2000's. We were both commuter students pursuing similar interests as we were both chasing our B.S. Civil Engineering at UW-Milwaukee. We shared several courses and became friends through the process of studying together until we graduated with our respective degrees. One of my more memorable courses was with John in "Senior Design" where we had a group capstone project. Our project entailed developing a mocked-up design on a property from scratch. John was kind enough to allow our group to mockup the design on land that was owned by his family. We developed a design concept that took the project all the way through a hypothetical market analysis...fast forwarding, we all learned a great deal from that "hands on" project and having real life props made it so much more enjoyable. Kudos to John and his family for making that available to our group to learn from.

After college, we stayed in touch even though we have always lived some distance from each other. I would occasionally reach out and see how his job was going and vice versa. The communication and discussions were always enjoyable, and I always liked to hear about the most recent achievements/accolades he had aspired to obtain at the Village as their Director of Public Works. Again, some of the best discussions revolved around us pursuing and ultimately both of us obtaining our Professional Engineering licenses around the same time frame. This was instrumental to both of our career paths and a passionate goal that we both shared from our days in college.

Several years beyond graduation, John's experience and role as Director and my career path put us in a professional setting when I reached out to John and discussed the possibility of my Construction Management engineering firm working for him at the Village providing our services. I had to compete for the role and was fortunate to have a strong background in asphalt paving having worked for the leading Contractors in the State. This experience offered the opportunity for me to work as a Consultant with John for a few years overseeing the Village of Pleasant Prairie (VOPP) paving program. John was always professional and respectful. He always held myself and my employees accountable, which I always admired as a friend and a Consultant.

After a few years of successfully overseeing the program, I was approached by VOPP to come work with John in a capacity that I really felt would be rewarding. It allowed me to do what I had become good at doing alongside a much-admired mentor in my field. I took the role as Construction Manager for VOPP and worked under John where I reported to him directly. I was right. The job was very rewarding. I was exposed to all facets of the inner workings of a municipality which as a Civil Engineer is very intriguing. I was also extremely fortunate to have John as my mentor/boss/friend. He is a great leader, I had the pleasure of working for him and learning from him while I compiled a construction management team for the Village.

When I parted ways with the Village (due to too much distance between home and work), I continued to stay in touch with John. He is still a great friend and a true mentor, and I hope that will continue for a lifetime.

I can be reached for any additional discussion anytime,

Thanks,

**Jesse Houle, PE**

Managing Member  
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Kenosha County Eye

**My experience and evaluation of John Steinbrink Jr.**

John Steinbrink Jr. was raised in one of the hardest working, most community minded families I have ever encountered in my 50 years of public service. John is that textbook example of the local kid who worked on the family farm, and later worked as a Public Works driver. He sequentially obtained a BA in Business Administration and a separate BS in Civil Engineering at night and on the weekends. With the enactment of levy limits by the State of Wisconsin, financial resources were severely constrained at the Village. John assumed additional responsibilities for Sewer and Water Utilities, Storm Water Utilities, Sanitation Utilities, Parks, and Construction Management. His work in these areas saved the Village of Pleasant Prairie millions in operational and personnel expenses.

While John is the hardest working person I've ever known, I never witnessed him working at anything for solely his own benefit. This was exemplified by his efforts to support the Kenosha Achievement Center. Without being asked, John volunteered to help and led the construction of a green house on the KAC grounds to provide another work opportunity for the clients to experience growing vegetables, cleaning, packaging, and preparing them for sale. John also volunteered his talents for construction of the "Dream Playground" where he led inexperienced "volunteer builders" in implementing the construction plan of a very large playground that was successfully assembled in a couple of days. I served on the KAC Board with John and his facility insights and compassion for the special population there helped the organization navigate through some very difficult financial times. Our community prospered and became a better place to live because of his kindheartedness and endless work.

Michael Pollocoff  
Retired Pleasant Prairie Administrator  
Current Village Trustee

5300 86<sup>th</sup> Place  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin

Dear Judge Milisauskas,

I have known John Steinbrink Jr. for over 20 years. John and I first met when volunteering for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics- Polar Plunge. This event was held for years at Lake Andrea in Pleasant Prairie, and John helped with all types of logistics including helping to cut the ice open on the lake for the plunge.

John has also helped with other non- profit events to give back to the community, and John is also one of those people that you can call, and he would be there to help. This could be an easy plumbing issue to helping with a tree, and I am proud to have him as a friend.

I am also a Pleasant Prairie resident and have seen the work he has done in the Village to help improve the Village, and he was always willing to answer any questions or give the information on what department to contact help answer my questions.

I look forward to seeing and working with John on other volunteer ventures as I know his commitment to the community, friends, and family. Thank you for your time and any questions please let me know.

Ray

**Raymond A. Merlin**

Executive Director-International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association  
Gateway Technical College-Specialty Training Coordinator/Adjunct Instructor  
Team One Network- Instructor  
RAM Associates, LLC  
Tactical Advisory Committee-WI DOJ Training and Standards  
Kenosha County Sheriff's Department, Retired Sgt.  
Every Child's Place Board Member-Kenosha-WI  
Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics State Council  
262-914-2902 (c)

*"I don't fear the man who knows 10,000 techniques, but rather the man who practices one technique 10,000 times."*

*From Corrections One Article*



Dear Judge Milisaukas,

I am writing this letter as a character reference for John Steinbrink, Jr. I have known John for over 15 years. Our firm worked with John when we represented the Village of Pleasant Prairie. He was always professional, responsive, reliable, good-natured and extremely hard working.

I also served on the Kenosha Achievement Center Board while John was our President. John was an active leader in the organization. He spent countless hours volunteering at KAC events. He served on numerous committees and made himself available for anything and everything needed.

Over the years, John has become a close friend to my husband and me. He has a huge and generous heart. John is that person you can count on - that friend who will help you whenever you need. He is humble, kind and loyal. John works tirelessly, and I am often amazed at how long his days are.

John genuinely cares for others, as evidenced by his many friends and great relationships. I continually see in John his strong work ethic, devotion to his family and friends, and desire to help make this community better. People like John are rare, and I am hopeful that his goodness is considered.

Sincerely,

Roberta Puntillo

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My name is Michael R. Zacker, Broker / Owner of Cove Realty located in Kenosha, WI. I am submitting this letter on behalf of John P. Steinbrink, Jr.

To whom it may concern:

I have a very unique perspective that perhaps no one else in this process will be able to duplicate. I have had the privilege of knowing John Steinbrink Jr for almost 40 years. I first met John, in 1985, at Tremper High School in Kenosha. We played on the football team together, became very good friends, eventually went to UW Whitewater as classmates, were in each other's weddings and I had the privilege and honor of becoming Godfather to John's youngest son Brian. Over those years I have witnessed the evolution of John. I have seen him grow in ways most of us have never witnessed. John was a young, wide-eyed teenager, a kid who would work at the family dairy farm before going to school every morning, while finding time for friends, school sports, student government and anything that would come across his radar. I saw John continue on to become a husband, father of two successful sons, Village of Pleasant Prairie Director of Public Works and obtain his PE degree (professional engineer) all while continuing to help with the family business. During his tenure as the director of Public Works of Pleasant Prairie I saw my friend relish in his role. He took great pride in going to work every day. He would very often be the first one there and the last one to leave. He, put the village and its needs above the needs of himself on numerous occasions. His sacrifice, time and efforts and energies we're always unwavering. He truly "lived for his job". The old adage of if you want to get something done, give it to the busiest person you know was written for John.

Outside of work, you'd be hard-pressed to find an individual who would give back more to his community than John. Whether it was a financial contribution to a charity, or an in-kind donation that was requiring his time and/or expertise as an engineer, John was always the first one to volunteer and pitch in to make our community a better place. He has an abundance of energy, passion and both physical and emotional energy that cannot be duplicated. His efforts at the Relay for Life, youth organizations and Village events were unprecedented. He never refused a request to help make his community a better place.

Over the past 21 years, as the Broker/Owner of Cove Realty, I have had opportunities to have John work for me personally as well as on behalf of my clients. Never once have I ever heard negative feedback from someone, I referred to John. To the contrary, John, and no surprise here, would always do more than expected and treat people as friends and not as

customers. He is a very unselfish human being. John is one of the good guys and a person we should all try to emulate.

I do not understand all the legalities involved in this process and I appreciate the fact that you have decisions that need to be made. As you make your decision, please understand that you are looking at a man who has always put community, customers, village residents, and others ahead of himself. There are very few people in this world I would write this letter for. I am proud to say that John Steinbrink, Jr, my friend of almost 40 years, is one of them. I thank you, in advance, for your time having read this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Michael R. Zacker", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael R. Zacker  
Broker/Owner Cove Realty

Kenosha County Eye