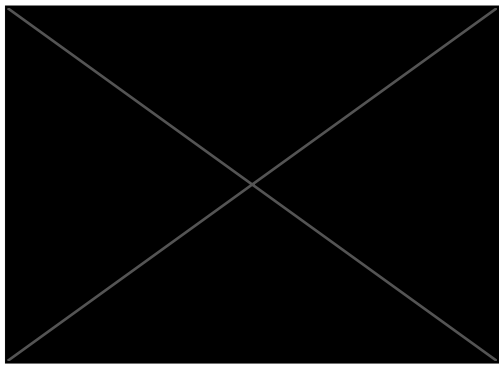


ALO

March 5, 2025
01-2024-CF-3748-A
Blb500X



State of Florida
vs.

~~Quaker~~ ~~Kanadas~~
Justin Hamby

February 18, 2025

Judge Ferrero
Alachua County Criminal Justice Center
220 South Main Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

FILED IN OPEN COURT
March 5, 2025

D.C.
TOSHIA WHITEHURST

Dear Judge Ferrero,

I am writing this letter to provide a character witness reference for my big brother, Justin Hamby. Justin had to take on the role of being the "man of the house" at a very young age due to our fathers' absence. Most days Justin had to play the role of being a father and not just my big brother. He was and still is my protector. He helped raise me and I would not be who I am today without him.

Our mother was a single mom raising four kids. Justin being the oldest, Me and our baby brother Most of Justin's childhood all the way through high school consisted of him raising his little siblings. He missed out on parties, games, sleepovers, and more. Our mother never asked him, never demanded, never expected his help. He did it because he wanted to and that's who he is. He held my hand every morning and walked me to the bus stop not even required to be up as early as I had to be for school but did it every single day Monday through Friday to keep me safe. He never stopped holding my hand.

In 2009 we had a house fire. I was around the age of 13 and Justin was around the age of 16. The day this fire occurred Justin was home watching me and our baby brother, , who was around the age of while our mother was at work. I tried to make French fries, but the grease just got too hot. Everything happened so fast, it was all just a blur. What I do remember from that awful day was how Justin saved us. I was standing beside Justin when he grabbed the pot of

grease that was on fire. When something like this happens, you don't have time to think. You must act fast. What puts out fire? Water! Justin put the pot of grease that was on fire in the sink and as soon as he turned on the water it was almost like an explosion went off. Justin, reacting fast, elbowed me so hard in the face that I fell backwards onto the kitchen floor saving my entire face from the flames that engulfed my brother's body from the waist up. I laid there on the floor with my eyes closed terrified to open them. After what felt like forever, I opened my eyes and when I looked up Justin was standing over me and his skin was melting from his arms. Justin elbowing me in the face and knocking me to the ground is what saved me. He used his body to block the flames from touching me. Let me say it again, he used HIS BODY to block the flames to SAVE me. Had he not managed to get me to the ground in a split of a second...I would have third degree burns covering my face and body. It wasn't over yet...our kitchen was on fire and our baby brother was in his crib asleep. I couldn't move. I was frozen. Justins skins was literally falling off his arms and he kept going. He picked me up and carried me outside and laid me in the yard and ran back inside for our baby brother. We couldn't go back inside for the phone to call 911 so we had to walk to our neighbors. Justin did all of this without even crying. Can you imagine the pain he felt? Fast forward...Justin spent almost two months in the burn unit at Shands and every time I got to visit him he did what he always does, he held my hand.

I found out I was pregnant in 2017 at the age of 20 years old. Justin was the first person I talked to. I drove to his job he had at the time in Gainesville, and I just cried. I didn't think I could do it. There was no way I was ready to be a mother. By the time I left his work I drove home with a smile on my face and no more tears because I wasn't doing this alone, I had my big brother by my side supporting me and telling me I could do it. Justin did what he has done my whole entire life....he held my hand and over the last seven years I have watched my brother be the absolute best "Uncle Bubby" to my daughter and someday she will need him to hold her hand and he will do for her what he has done for me.

Justin was born to be a father and now he has two beautiful daughters named [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED]. They miss their dad so much. He is reliable, caring, loving, honest, and hardworking. Justin has put the girls first since the day they were born. Justins children, our mother and stepfather, our grandmother, our siblings, friends and additional family, miss him so much. I hope reading this letter helps the court understand what kind of person Justin is. I miss my brother, and I want him to come back home. I need my brother to be able to hold my hand.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]