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Title: Councilmember
Organization or Agency:
Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed
NA

Testimony:

January 11, 2025

Greetings Madam Chair Garcia and Mr. Chairman Dooley and members of the State Correctional Advisory Committee:

Allow me to introduce myself as I present testimony in support of Kenneth Krayeske's application for Ombudsman under the lauded Public Act 22-18 aka the "PROTECT ACT" (5/22). I am Rose Reyes, a Bilingual Educator, a Council member for the Town of Windham with the Working Families Party and... and overall community minded activist who is pleased to support Mr. Krayeske as he is one of the finalists for the State of Connecticut Correctional Advisory Committee's Correctional Ombudsman position. For too long I have witnessed a series of unfortunate incidences on the national, state and local levels with regards to the treatment of our incarcerated and soon to be incarcerated and it had propelled me into bearing witness across the country and it was at one of those distinct locations, at one of those distinct events over five years ago, that I came to learn of Mr. Krayeske (who is part of a dynamic duo, for sure) since it was through his wife that I gained the distinct awareness of being a part of an accountability movement that brought us together. At those events I had the privilege of listening and observing Mr. Krayeske's thinking about the urgent situation incarcerated individuals face daily. He is quite formidable in his stance for justice and in his efforts to call attention to systemic structures that just needed... a complete re-hauling. I can speak directly to the moral compass he owns that keeps him fighting for the humanity of the incarcerated. He reminds us that we are obliged to maintain a social contract of compassion for all. It helps to be a successful litigant as well. Mr. Krayeske has demonstrated this through his resourcefulness when he and his legal team addressed the health needs of twenty thousand incarcerated individuals; or when the State seemed dismissive of particular incarcerated individuals' extenuating circumstances; he has demonstrated tenacity to subject such that a few civil rights law groups and other associations identified him as a "Giant Slayer" and a "Game Changer". This is what we need at this juncture in the evolution of social justice. He has the investigative skill sets needed for supervisory accountability since he was a journalist before pursuing the Connecticut bar. He has the compass "to promote, advocate and monitor the health and safety and welfare of persons incarcerated and/or on parole". I took that phrase from the job description created for this position and when I read the description, in its entirety I am compelled to share with the committee that I believe Mr. Krayeske will do right by our expectations and establish a very important entity in our Correctional system. We have waited long enough. Thank you for your time and consideration and I encourage the committee to welcome Mr. Krayeske.

Sincerely,

Rose Reyes

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