

Dear Judge Martinez-Olguin

My name is Bob Thompson, business owner of Cork 49, a wine bar in downtown Grass Valley CA.

I first met Aaron and Kate when they came in as customers two years ago. This was at a time when the pandemic was ending and small businesses were trying to survive. We became friends quickly and soon he, Kate and another couple became regulars.

As we became better acquainted, he became loyal to my business and wanted to help me succeed. He is a woodworker and made beautiful original tables, a coffee table and a bench swing, complete with Cork 49 logos. He only charged me for the materials.

Aaron, myself and another friend formed a bond. We decided to meet weekly for coffee to support each other and help improve our lives.

Our third friend had revealed his diagnosis of cancer and was struggling with this challenge. Aaron was and continues to be very supportive.

During one of our weekly meetings, Aaron shared the details of the case that's before you. He took full responsibility for his actions, and showed great remorse and regret.

After he told us I was surprised. His unsolicited generosity to my business and myself is the man of character that I know.

As he navigates through this rough time, he has shown great resilience and hope for his future. He is a valued member of this community and continues with his woodworking business.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Aaron.

Sincerely,

Bob Thompson
Cork 49 owner