

Gina Louis

207 Homer Ave S.

Lehigh Acres, FL 33973

May 16, 2022

James Lappan

Office of The Federal Defender

2075 West First Street, Suite 300

Fort Myers, FL 33901

Mr. Lappan,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Edrica Watson. I have known Edrica as a good friend and co-worker well over 15 years. She is a single Mom of two little kids, a hard worker and someone who would go out of her way for others. One small story of Edrica; every end of school year she boxes up all her kid's belongings that they have either outgrown or wish to give away, then she asks her family or friends if they know of any single Moms who could use these things. Most moms don't even know it's her that is giving, she does it without wanting everyone to know. She always says, "It's better from the heart and not the mouth." She is always trying to help women in situations like herself. She teaches her kids the importance of helping others and giving. Edrica is a person who shows up at work on her day off just to help celebrate a resident's birthday. She is a person that will help in any way she can, no matter the cause.

I did not know of Edrica's crime; however, I was aware of a guy in her life whom I always felt manipulated and dominated her. For some reason she always seemed unable or unwilling to stand up to him. So, when I found out that Edrica was arrested and the reason for her arrest I was not surprised. In my opinion it was his doing that led her into a horrible situation. Edrica made a mistake, she let someone mislead her into something she would have never done on her own. Yes, her involvement in this in this crime was wrong and yes, she should pay back whatever money she took.

Edrica has expressed to me many times that she is extremely sorry and is taking responsibility for her actions in this matter. I wish to express that she has never been in any kind of legal trouble. This one mistake does not define who she is, and I would hate to see her taken away from her kids and career because of it. I hope that the court takes my letter into consideration during her sentencing.

Please feel free to call me with any questions concerning Edrica.

Thank you

Gina Louis

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