



FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, DIVISION NO. 3
PATRICK K. ROBB, CIRCUIT JUDGE
411 JULES STREET
BUCHANAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI 64501-1780

COURTROOM CLERK
KAY EZZELL

AREA CODE 816
271-1444

July 18, 1994

Ms. Gail Mitchell
52 Alban Street
Dorchester, Ma. 02122

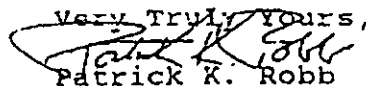
Dear Ms. Mitchell:

This is a letter of reference regarding the Common Ground Cafe that opened here in St. Joseph, Missouri, approximately one year ago. It has been a very successful business and is one of the more popular eating places in downtown St. Joseph during lunchtime. People in this community have been impressed with the quality of the restaurant's food and home made breads and bagels. It has been a bright addition to the eating establishments in our community and has been well received by the people.

The restaurant is located a couple of blocks from the courthouse and as a result many people from the courthouse eat lunch there, including myself. I have always found it to be a great place to eat lunch at and the people who operate it very friendly. Last month I had a jury trial where the jury was sequestered and one evening took the jurors to eat there, they all told me later they enjoyed the dinner and atmosphere of the restaurant.

In conclusion I would like to add that the Common Ground Cafe has been very successful in our community and has been a fine addition to our downtown. Also, there has been several articles in the newspaper regarding the success and popularity of the Common Ground restaurant. I believe a restaurant such as this one would be an asset in any community and can see no reason why there would be any opposition to a business that here has been so successful and positive for this community.

If upon receipt of this letter, you have any questions or wish to discuss the matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,

Patrick K. Robb

July 15, 1994

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re. Common Ground Cafe

The owners of the Common Ground Cafe have asked me to express my views concerning their business contribution to the St. Joseph community and I am happy to do so.

First, some background information. St. Joseph, population approximately 72,000, several years ago enjoyed a busy downtown. St. Joseph is an historic community - the home of the Pony Express and one of the major outfitting towns of the early westward movement. We enjoy many examples of beautiful and architecturally significant historic residential and business buildings that were designed and constructed during St. Joseph's "golden era" which occurred from the 1880's to the turn of the century.

Through the decades, as the largest city in Northwestern Missouri, we were and remain the "hub" of this area with an extensive agribusiness foundation. During the late 1960's and early 1970's with the downturn of agribusiness and closing of major packing industry plants St. Joseph suffered economically as did many areas of the country. As you may be aware the federal "urban development" programs swept the country in an effort to boost downtown economies. St. Joseph, like other cities, thought this would have a positive economic impact. Unfortunately, that was not the experience. During the urban development construction process (which I personally believe was really a "destruction process" major department stores moved from the downtown area into the newly constructed urban malls. Following that exodus nearly all our small downtown business folded as well. For nearly 20 years St. Joseph was cursed with a downtown pedestrian mall with very little economic activity.

Upon election to the St. Joseph City Council in 1986 and during my term as Mayor of St. Joseph (1989 - 1994) one of my goals was to see the pedestrian mall removed and the development of specialty restaurants and stores in the downtown. Property owners in the downtown area and city government worked in partnership to accomplish these goals. Today, most of the store fronts are occupied and cash registers are ringing up sales in downtown St. Joseph. And, the citizens of our community voted for a sales tax last year to promote St. Joseph's tourism treasures.

Common Sense was among the first specialty shops to open in the downtown business district. Later these owners opened the Common Ground Cafe, specializing in good wholesome, healthful menu items -- just what the public wanted. About the same time they relocated the Common Sense store to the center of the downtown business district next door to the cafe. I must tell you, if the owners of the Common Ground Cafe haven't already, that customer demand has created the need for expansion of the cafe as well as carry out service.

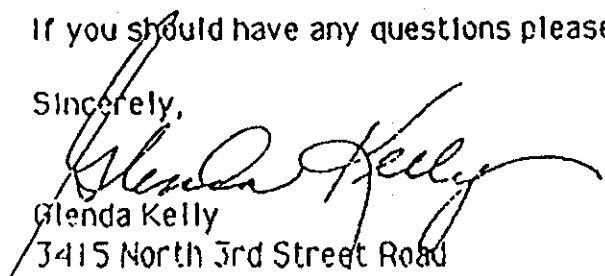
When the owners first came to St. Joseph they contacted me to express their business vision, discuss their plans and seek zoning and building regulations information. I have been impressed from their first visit in my office as Mayor and have worked with them throughout their development process. When I have out of town guests I always try to make a point to take them to St. Joseph's downtown and especially the Common Ground Cafe for lunch and the Common Sense store. I have yet to experience a visitor to our community that has not been impressed. The Common Ground Cafe and the Common Sense specialty shop have made a very positive impact on economic revitalization to our downtown and they have helped lead the way for other small business owners to invest in our downtown.

If you haven't been to St. Joseph I extend to you my personal invitation to do so. I know you will be impressed with our history, wonderful museums, 27 mile parkway system - the most beautiful in the United States - and the many other wonderful experiences. I'd be happy to meet you for lunch at the Common Ground Cafe and then encourage you to take back home with you, along with your memories of St. Joseph; a fragrant candle from Common Sense.

Thank-you for this opportunity to tell you about our City and the success and neighborliness of one of our small business owners.

If you should have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Glenda Kelly

3415 North 3rd Street Road

St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Telephone: (816) 233-2614

PAMELA WINDSOR

#1 FIELDCREST · ST. JOSEPH, MO. 64506 · 816-233-1587

July 14, 1994

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

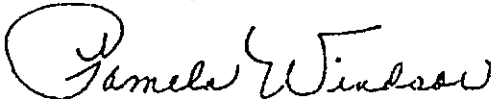
This is providing my personal endorsement of the members of the Community that own and operate the Common Ground Cafe here in St. Joseph. My husband and I patronize their establishment at least weekly, if not more often. We find them to be gracious hosts, and their music is very relaxing and entertaining.

In the course of the year or so they have operated the cafe and bakery, as well as their Common Sense store, we have become well acquainted with several members on a personal level. We find them refreshing, and value their opinions on various issues. They are hard working, intelligent people, whom anyone would enjoy having for neighbors. While their lifestyle is somewhat different from ours, we have the utmost respect for them and their beliefs. They are truly kind, compassionate, loving people.

I am the Finance Director of the City of St. Joseph, and on that basis, I can verify that they always strive to obtain the necessary licensing from my department. They pay what they owe the City promptly, and do not make a habit of being delinquent.

Please welcome them. They will be an asset to your community.

Sincerely,



Pamela Windsor

July 15, 1994

From:

Lyle D. Farquhar
8109 N. Everton
Kansas City, MO 64152
(816) 587-3394

To Whom It May Concern:

The fine staff at "The Common Ground" restaurant has asked if I would comment on their operation for the edification of anyone who may be concerned.

I have made a habit of dining at "The Common Ground" at least once per week since they opened last year. It is not just for the excellent food that they prepare and serve. It is for the very friendly and caring atmosphere that prevails in the restaurant. The staff is genuinely attentive to the needs and concerns of their customers and they go far beyond the norm in friendliness.

These fine people also make excellent neighbors. While their restaurant is in an area that would be considered disadvantaged, this did not daunt them; in fact they seemed to consider it a challenge. They took a building that, in appearance, was marginal at best and transformed it into an outstanding structure that rivals any restorative project I have witnessed. And they performed this transformation on both the exterior and the interior. What was once an area of urban blight has now become a viable entity within the community. And apparently their influence has spread as the whole area appears cleaner and with a fresh resolve to become a "community" once again.

Yes, I am most pleased to recommend the people and the business acumen found in "The Common Ground" restaurant. You will find no single group more dedicated to both customer and community.

Sincere regards,



Lyle D. Farquhar

Public school teacher and _____
Lt. Colonel, Missouri Air National Guard

cc: file



American Red Cross
of Massachusetts Bay

99 Brookline Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215-3993
(617) 262-1234

Sept. 5, 1990

To Whom It May Concern:

Dicky Cantrell has worked for the American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay since November of 1989 and we consider him to be an asset to our organization. He has contributed to the Red Cross in many ways, not only as a per diem Instructor teaching lifesaving skills in CPR and First Aid, but also as a First Aid Volunteer for many events such as the Boston Marathon.

On the day of the Marathon it was expressed to me that Mr. Cantrell's prompt actions in dealing with many of the people who required his services were very professional, and his personality makes him very easy to get along with.

As an Instructor he has made a lasting impression on many of his students that he has taught during the past year. Many organizations request Dicky to be their Instructor because of his knowledge of the material being taught and for the most part the first-hand experience he has had working with his community's First Aid station at the Greatful Dead concerts across America. His repoire with the students is excellent. Many times I have heard people speaking highly about his teaching methods.

Dicky Cantrell is one of our most outstanding Instructors here at the American Red Cross and I'm sure that he would be a great asset to your organization. If you have any questions about Mr. Cantrell, please do not hesitate to call me at your convenience. My number is (617) 262-1234 ext. 256

We would greatly appreciate any assistance you could give him in furthering his education and if you ever have the opportunity to work with him and his volunteer staff you will not be disappointed.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Maclean
Sales Manager





THOMAS M. WHALEN III
MAYOR

CITY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
MORTON AVENUE & BROAD STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12202
TELEPHONE (518) 462-8000

JOHN A. DALE
CHIEF OF POLICE

March 26, 1990

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is to confirm the attendance of Mr. Dicky Cantrell at the Grateful Dead Concert, Saturday through Monday, March 24, 1990 to March 26, 1990 at the Knickerbocker Arena in our City.

As a registered Emergency Medical Technician, he has been very professional in the caring of patients when they become ill or injured. I have found Mr. Cantrell and his volunteer team to be very pleasant, easy to work with and a valuable asset to the public.

Sincerely yours,

William M. Murray
Assistant Chief