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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
HONORABLE BRUCE E. CHAN, JUDGE PRESIDING
DEPARTMENT NO. 5
YOUNG ADULT COURT
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IN RE THE MATTER OF:)
YOUNG ADULT COURT GRADUATION)
GRADUATES: L.C.)
D.J.)
N.L.)
M.R.)
A.S.)
L.S.)

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
COMMENTS BY: SUPERVISOR SHAMANN WALTON
DECEMBER 16, 2021

A P P E A R A N C E S:
FOR THE PEOPLE: HON. CHESA BOUDIN DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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BY: **AZITA GHAFOURPOUR**
ASST. DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

REPORTED BY:
JOANN M. PRIOR, CSR 9129 OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

1 DECEMBER 16, 2021

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 (THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDINGS IS AN EXCERPT TRANSCRIPT OF
4 PROCEEDINGS FROM THE YOUNG ADULT COURT GRADUATION PROCEEDINGS.)

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6 SUPERVISOR WALTON: Thank you so much, Judge Chan. I want
7 to thank you for the program and for making sure that this
8 opportunity exists.

9 I also want to thank you, Ranon Ross, who works for the
10 District Attorney's office, for continuously letting me know
11 progress of what's happening during the program.

12 I want to start off by saying congratulations to all the
13 graduates for your hard work, for your determination for which
14 you have done through this process.

15 It is very much beneficial to make sure that you have
16 options and opportunity, because the more options that you have,
17 the more opportunity you have, the better decisions you will
18 make and that goes for all of us.

19 I just briefly want to talk about the fact that your resume
20 can change. That is something that has resonated with me
21 throughout my entire life and is something that I know can
22 happen for you and anybody in this courtroom today.

23 Where you are now, where you are today, where you may have
24 been awhile ago can definitely turn out to be something
25 different.

26 If I was to be in a certain position today based on my past
27 resume I wouldn't be standing here before you as the President
28 of the Board of Supervisors.

1 My resume would have read something like: Lives in the
2 projects in West Point or lives in the projects in Potrero Hill.

3 It would have read something like: Raised just by his
4 mother, no father in the home, having to deal with the affects
5 of substance abuse and being in communities where it was hard
6 for a young black male to grow up.

7 It would have read as someone who was suspended from school
8 on a pretty consistent basis, elementary and junior high, to the
9 point where I've been expelled from the school district and
10 Vallejo City Unified more than two times.

11 It would have read: Teenage parent. Someone who had kids
12 before they were 18-years old.

13 It would have read someone who was in and out of juvenile
14 hall growing up. Someone who caught armed robbery case, someone
15 who caught drug cases, someone who caught stolen car cases.

16 It would have read somebody who was not bound for college,
17 but most definitely was bound for death or the penitentiary.

18 But thank God that we have mentors. Thank God we have
19 programs that are dedicated and committed to exposing young
20 people to opportunities so that they can make changes. That's
21 what the Young Adult Court program has done.

22 Not only has it allowed you opportunities to think about
23 some of the choices that may have been made in your life, but it
24 also provided you with the uplift and opportunity to have a
25 clean slate from a mistake and a lesson that you've learned.
26 And that goes for all of us.

27 I have definitely been in a position where I was faced with
28 having to make a choice on what direction I wanted to see for my

1 life and being fortunate enough to have people in my life that
2 were going to make sure that I was able to make a different
3 change.

4 I'm just excited to see that you all have persevered
5 through this process and this time in your life. I want you to
6 understand that no matter what you have done in your past
7 history you can be whatever you want to be and you can succeed
8 in whatever you want to succeed in.

9 And it's not just a story that I'm telling you because I
10 heard it, because I've read it in the book, which I have, but
11 it's also because I'm a prime example of what can happen if you
12 make different choices.

13 So, as I started saying, the more options and the more
14 opportunities you have the better choices you make. That is
15 something that I want to resonate with everybody here.

16 We all go through trials and tribulations in our lives no
17 matter what we've done or no matter where we come from or no
18 matter where we've been, but the reason why if I'm faced with
19 adversity, someone gets killed in my family, something happens
20 to one of my children, somebody says something to me on the
21 street that I don't like, the reason why I make a decision
22 that's going to keep me free and going to keep me alive is
23 because I have better options and better choices and better
24 ways to deal with the issues that I'm confronted with.

25 That's the same for you through this program. It's the same
26 for you through the next steps that you're going to take.

27 So I'm honored to be here with all of you; honored to bring
28 you certificates and hand out the completion paperwork.

1 I don't know, Judge, how we want to do that if it is time
2 for that now.

3 **THE COURT:** I am going to help you.

4 **SUPERVISOR WALTON:** I want to say congratulations.

5 Let me read the certificate and what they say, because they
6 all say the same for everybody.

7 *"Congratulations on graduating from the Young Adult Court*
8 *program. Your accomplishment is proof of your*
9 *determination. I look forward to seeing you continue to be*
10 *a positive influence on your community. On behalf of the*
11 *San Francisco Board of Supervisors I am privileged to*
12 *present you with this commendation."*

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