

## Written Testimony of Terrence K. Bradley

I graduated from Milford Mill High School in 1982, and attended college at Lincoln University, Catonsville Community College and Baltimore City Community College. I did not complete any of the degree programs; and dropped out to join the military, specifically the Maryland Army National Guard, in 1985. I have always managed to meet people who saw something special in me, when I did not see it for myself. While in the military, I met Major Sheridan, who after reviewing my records and scores, recommended me for Officer Candidate School (OCS). This time, I did complete the program, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army.

After achieving that laurel, and the birth of my son at age 26, my life changed; due to opioids and alcohol. The entire 1990's decade was a virtual blur to me. I was in the complete throws of addiction; with multiple arrests and inability to sustain employment on a consistent basis. I was lost, and it affected every aspect of my life. When you are in that state, unfortunately, you drag your entire family down with you. So, by the end of the 90's, I was beaten in every way, and tired of my horrible existence. I started drug treatment in the Fall, 1999, and completed the Baltimore/STRIVE Job Placement Program, as well. Once completing STRIVE, I gained employment with the Baltimore City Youth Opportunity Program, and was required to complete the Baltimore City's Youth Practitioner Institute, through Baltimore City Community College, where I earned a certificate from the Mayor's Office. This was the first time in my life that I had a work history, remaining there for 5 years, until the program lost funding.

In 2004, I was helping a former student pursue a career as an electrician. Therefore, I went to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Office, Local 24, to obtain information for my student. Once there, I, too, became interested in the apprenticeship program. I applied, and two weeks later, I was accepted. After completing the 5 year program, I became a licensed journeyman electrician in 2010. However, due to the economy, lay-offs became the norm. For the next 3 years, construction jobs were scarce, and work was inconsistent. Another chance meeting of a former co-worker, led me to the profession of Occupational Safety. He was an electrician, and had also been affected by the inconsistent work. This individual was working as a Occupational Safety Manager, for an electrical firm. He explained that I would need a college degree, in order to get into the profession. So, I enrolled as a full-time student and earned an Associates Degree in Occupational Safety and Health, in 2015. October 2015, I was hired by MONA Electric, as a Safety Manager, where I remain today.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have overcome many obstacles in my life; however, my past still haunts me until today. In 2017, my ability to access Fort Detrick, which I had since 2007, was revoked. After questioning security, I was told that the background eligibility requirements had changed on the base and because of my criminal record, I was no longer permitted to work there. The security officer expressed that I would need to have the charge expunged before I

would be allowed to return. In 2018, after requesting and receiving a hearing in the Expungement Court, the judge, who expressed her desire, yet inability to help, suggested that I contact my local representative for assistance in clearing my record. In another chance meeting, then Delegate, now Senator McCray, and fellow electrician, after hearing my story, offered to help.

Today, I am asking you to allow me to expunge the following conviction: Driving motor vehicle while license suspended. From this expungement, I will be able to remove all of the other null processed charges. This charge has been on my record since 1996. I have broken the law, endured, given back to the community, changed my life, acquired education and meaningful employment. I am a productive member of society, residing in Baltimore County, MD, after purchasing my first home in 2017. Nevertheless, this event, which took place over 24 years ago, continues to negatively impact my life.

Respectfully and Responsibly Submitted, February 22, 2020

Terrence K. Bradley