



Herman Greene
8515 N. Drummond Ave
Portland, OR 97217

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Tiahantae Hudson.

If Tiahantae is guilty of anything it is being a child that as a result of life's circumstances was forced to grow up years before his time. For the first year and a half of his high school career he was technically what the system would consider homeless, living from one couch to the next, sometimes catching the bus for two to three hours just to try and get to school on time, and sometimes coming to school not having eaten the days before. However, since he has moved in with us, his walls have slowly begun to come down and he is beginning to grow again, but this time as a child needing supports, and not as an adult.

He has gone from barely showing up to school to being in school all the time, on time, on task and on a mission. He has gone from not passing most of his classes to only needing support in one. He is pushing himself harder than any individual could because as he likes to say, "this is all I have left".

He was starving for structure, and once given the opportunity to not worry about where he was going to sleep, or whether or not he was going to eat, he did what any other kid would do, flourish...

I truly believe that giving Tiahantae the opportunity to play basketball, would not simply be allowing him to play, it would be letting him know that we see him, and we see all the hard work that he has done.

I heard it said once, you can blame a lot of mistakes on government, you can blame the system, you can blame the rules we have in place, you can even blame the parents or the adults in their lives, but you can't blame the kids... They are just coming along for the ride. Tiahantae's issue was never his ability to do the work, it was always his ability to be able to get to school, and now that he has a place to call home, and food to eat, he has done exactly what we thought he would do, flourish...

If given the opportunity to play, he will not let you down, it means too much to him.

Sincerely,
Herman Greene

Senior Pastor Southlake North Church