

Dustin C. Johnston
4525 Banff Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Cc: Residents of the New Holiday Park and Albuquerque

CRISIS IN FAITH

February 3, 2003

Dear Mr. Johnston:

I thank you greatly for taking time to write, and expressing interest in the controversy concerning David Siebers. Let me try to address the important concerns you raised in your letter. I am copying area residents, as I believe many have raised similar concerns.

You noted you were unclear why AnnMarie and I invited David to seek safe sanctuary in our home. There are many reasons, but let me summarize by relating a couple key principles that govern our lives.

First and foremost, I do not believe people in this community understand my intense love of our great nation. As a younger man, I had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the world. I was fortunate to have sufficient skills to be a professional athlete. My journeys took me to a number of countries. These experiences allowed me to view our nation from the outside, reflect on our ideals and compare our culture to other societies. I developed a Love/Hate relationship with America. We have so much; we are so blessed; and frankly, we are the richest, most powerful and most fortunate people who have ever walked the face of this Earth. Yet we waste so carelessly, empathize with others so callously and demonstrate such unbelievable selfishness in light of our great opportunities.

The ideals expressed in the U.S. Constitution and applicable laws apply equally to all Americans – not just to those who gain favor from you or your neighbors. As a society we have suffered greatly due to our fears, prejudices and continued acts of discrimination. We are a people who have earned the right, paid in blood and loss by millions of our ancestors, to govern ourselves. These tremendous sacrifices created a government that is truly *of the people, by the people and for the people*. You, those who reside in this community and me agreed to live by these principles, for it is you, me and our friends who have established the existing laws that govern our nation.

Those laws, as applicable to David, state he has the right to enter our community; live peacefully as he chooses, as long as he agrees to abide by our provisions. Those laws also state AnnMarie and I, who also abide by the law, have the right to invite any American to our home, as we see fit. These facts are undisputed.

Nobody, not you, top FBI experts or me can tell the world what David might do in the future. Nobody can tell you or me what any of our neighbors might do in the future. And, as we tragically witnessed yesterday, one of our nation's shining icons self-destructed before our eyes as it returned from an important mission in space. The future is always uncertain. We cannot fall prey to our fears. We must maintain Faith in our laws, institutions, community and each other.

The events we witnessed in regard to David exposed a great illness in America. I refer to this as a *Crisis in Faith*. There are many reasons for this. As a society we are angry with government, as we believe we pay too much in taxes and receive too little in services. We recently witnessed a collapse in the stock market, nearly equal to the fall seen prior to the Great Depression. We saw our most prestigious corporations crumble, due to corruption, lies and deception. The events that transpired on September 11th uncovered a great vulnerability, suggesting our FBI, CIA and military are not adequately prepared to defend our borders. Even a cornerstone of Faith, the Catholic Church, failed to deliver on their promises to society. And, one of our more popular and successful presidents in history, Bill Clinton, let us all down by engaging in unacceptable professional behavior, and then lying about it to the public. Yes, my friend, we are suffering a crisis of magnanimous proportion.

When I ran for the president of the New Holiday Park Neighborhood Association, I talked specifically about the need to strengthen our community. I argued that in light of all the apparent failures we are currently witnessing, we must focus attention on the core of America – the community. But my vision of community does not end with the 40-50 families on my block. It is greater than the New Holiday Park or the City of Albuquerque. My vision of community is the United States of America.

Therefore, when our mayor, Martin Chavez, used his political muscle to push David out of Albuquerque, he not only desecrated our constitution and applicable statutes, he also demonstrated his lack of compassion for our brothers and sisters elsewhere in our “community.” In your letter to me, you listed a number of reasons why you believe it is unwise for David to visit us. For argument’s sake, let us assume those are valid reasons (and, in fact, many are). What municipality does not have similar concerns? What town, suburb or city in America does not have women, children or victims of sexual crimes? If the highly negative stigma surrounding David is accurate, what neighborhood in American is willing to accept that risk?

This phenomenon that ensued is a NIMBY effect – Not In My Back Yard. Taken to the logical extension, David had no home in America. Mayor Chavez demonstrated incredibly poor leadership in this matter. By opening David to the intense media circus, as Albuquerque is one of the country’s most powerful television markets, he branded David. The mayor’s error occurred when he allowed this issue to be played out in the media. A more rational strategy would have been to shadow David, remain undercover, and wait for him to act, as FBI experts believed he would. If he engaged in anti-social behavior, they could have immediately apprehended him and returned him to prison.

The mayor’s grandstanding turned our efficient and effective law enforcement personnel into “baby sitters.” This frustrated them greatly. You should be seriously angry as well. I have met with David on a number of occasions. He currently resides in the small community of Verguita, which is about 50 miles south of Albuquerque. He receives constant surveillance – 24/7. I have observed up to four APD officers, and one Socorro deputy guarding David at a time. There are never less than two APD officers. You do the math: if we assume that just two APD officers shadow David continuously, under the Chief’s Overtime program, let me demonstrate the cost to taxpayers.

The hourly wage for an officer in the Overtime program is \$25. For two officers, this comes to \$50/hr. Multiply this figure by 24 hours, seven days per week, for 52 weeks. The total cost comes to \$436,800 per year! We could buy David a home in the farthest corner of Alaska, provide moving costs and give him a few bucks to get started for less than that. Do you now consider the mayor’s strategy to be effective?

AnnMarie and I had done the math before making our decision. We researched this matter extensively. We knew our government had failed all of us! And, it wasn’t just our mayor; it began with the State of Michigan. They represent the first malfunction in our criminal justice system.

I am sure you will agree the primary responsibility of government is to ensure the public’s safety. This includes threats from both home and abroad. After this goal is reasonably accomplished, our officials turn to job creation, education, infrastructure such as roads and schools, health care and more. The State of Michigan incarcerated David for nearly twenty years. When they released him in September ’02, they immediately announced he was dangerous and likely to re-offend. What kind of government acts in this manner? What kind of government releases a dangerous man, who experts consider to be an imminent threat, into society?

Scott and AnnMarie Goold did not create this problem. Yet faced with a pending catastrophe, when events in Verguita were spiraling out of control, two regular citizens stepped in where government had failed. Somebody somewhere had to do something. And, as I have always promised as a community leader, the *Buck Stops With Me*.

You may not be familiar with the events leading up to our announcement to invite David to take sanctuary in our home. In the week of January 13th, a couple residents of Verguita attacked David. Others told the press they were going to “fire bomb” the home where David resided, putting the occupants at risk. They responded out of fear, an irrational act, as they did not know David. They had not met David. They got their information, as did you and me, from TV News. As I have discussed, our mayor was providing the fuel for this public hysteria.

Experts claim David is mentally unstable. By pushing this “wounded man” into a corner, society was taking the risk of inflaming an already difficult situation. AnnMarie and I knew David might snap. He might harm himself or others. We envisioned a tragedy of tremendous proportion. TV News showed angry, panicked citizens in Verguita, along with their families and young children, demonstrating violently and relentlessly. Their tactics employed psychological warfare, hoping to push David to the limit. Their objective was to force him to leave the area. This was an extremely risky strategy, undertaken by amateurs, who knew little about David’s mental condition. Frankly, this was very stupid

Yet we do not fault the residents of Verguita. The blame rests with government. These people are ordinary citizens, trying to return the reigns of control into their own hands. Unfortunately, their strategy was flawed – and might have led to fatal consequences.

I am an expert in public policy. I have many connections within law enforcement, political circles, and social welfare and psychological ranks. I am proficient with the media, and am by trade, a professional political advocate. We do not have a lot of money. Therefore, we could not buy a solution. As we are only two ordinary citizens, we could not demand greater responsibility from government by ourselves. And, time was not on the side of anyone. Someone somewhere had to act – immediately.

We did. You now know the history. Panic ensued in our neighborhood. This wasn’t necessary, for I tried to calm everyone after the announcement. But our opponents preferred not to listen or discuss this matter rationally. I managed the media, as I promised. I used their cameras to disseminate our message, and it worked. We received an outpouring of support. Within days of our announcement, we had received numerous calls from compassionate Americans, and had four options on the table. I took these offers to David. As I had fought for him, he confided in me. As I had expressed a willingness to take David from Verguita, the protestors there were willing to listen and talk with me as well. I was able to help calm the situation, allowing everyone a moment to step back, take a breath, and begin seeking a permanent resolution to this problem, using a rational, comprehensive model – rather than one based in fear.

This, my friend, is how my mentors taught me to lead. A leader must be willing to take risks when everyone else is too fearful. A leader must remain calm when those around him are losing their heads. A leader must provide solutions, not just push problems on top of those less capable of handling the challenge. This is the leadership I brought to the New Holiday Park neighborhood.

Let me also take a moment to address a critical component in our lives – our Faith. We did not undertake this ordeal without a great deal of reflection and prayer. We have an extremely strong Faith in God. Our spiritual beliefs demand that we open our home, and hearts, in times of crisis. We stand by any American, who appears to be in trouble, as long as that individual agrees to live by the laws of men, as well as the those of God. We have no reservation about this.

It was our Faith in our spiritual convictions, but also our friends and neighbors, the law enforcement community, the media, and the world at large, that allowed us to act without fear. We were unafraid of the panicked, and angry, mob that assembled outside our home. We were unafraid of the intense media exposure that turned our home into a glass fishbowl. We were unafraid of the hundreds of calls, media questions or threats of lawsuits. You see: *Faith provides the answer to Fear.*


I am sure you are aware now that David has purchased land in the East Mountains outside Albuquerque. We will continue to assist him. I will use my many connections to help him locate a support group, get psychological counseling, secure employment and help him reintegrate into society. We have offered him friendship and love – as long as he is willing to abide by the spiritual and legal laws that govern this community.

In closing, our government failed all of us in this matter, but it was our Faith that helped us calm the storm, and find a permanent solution to this most difficult challenge. We did this as volunteers – not asking anything from taxpayers, but their Faith in return. Our community is America. We will not allow any American to be beat, burned or harmed because of fear. We will not allow the rights of any American to be violated, particularly by those who were elected to administrate and change the laws. They, of all Americans, must adhere to the established rules and procedures that guide each of us.

Two months ago residents were not raising concerns about sexual offenders in our society. Essentially, people had fallen asleep about this issue. I have been working in many ways to resolve such problems, and bring greater safety to this neighborhood. Yet residents in this area do not show up at our meetings. They seem to be apathetic to our calls for collaboration. I ask you now to take the time to become involved. Work together with us to resolve some of the pressing concerns in our world. This crisis has demonstrated to all of us that we must be more involved in political activities. We cannot leave such important matters to the bureaucrats and elected officials: *for we are a government of the people, by the people and for the people.*

I thank you in advance for your time and future collaborations. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



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