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IN THE MATTER OF THE SEALING OF THE CRIMINAL RECORDS OF [PETITIONER]

SWORN STATEMENT

NYSID: DOB: [DATE OF BIRTH]

I, [Petitioner], of full age, being duly sworn according to law, upon this oath depose and say:

- 1. I am the Petitioner in the matter seeking to have my criminal record sealed.
- 2. On [Date], I was arrested for Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree in [County]. I pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 5 years probation. On [Date], I was discharged from probation. I do not have any other convictions.
- 3. My arrest and conviction stemmed from an incident involving a coworker over [XX] years ago. That coworker had previously pulled a knife on me, and I brought a case against him. However, the case was dismissed because a form was not signed.
- 4. When I returned to work, the coworker was there and began to mock and taunt me about the case being dismissed. I became agitated in response and took my frustrations out by damaging his vehicle with a brick.
- 5. I deeply regret the choices I made that day. Although I did not hurt anyone physically, I still caused stress and financial harm to someone else. There is no justification for that, and I accept full responsibility for everything that followed.
- 6. I am proud to say that since my offense, I have worked hard to better myself and avoid any further destructive behavior. I have focused on moving past my conviction by digging into my Christian faith, which has helped guide me in making more positive choices.
- 7. After my conviction, I also went through counseling. Doing so has helped me identify the causes and effects of my actions, so that I can respond to difficult situations in a healthier way. I now understand how to deal with the kind of anger, hurt, and disappointment that lead to my offense.
- 8. Although I am proud of my progress, my conviction continues to impede me in many ways. I

still carry the stigma of having a criminal record, which harms both my emotional and financial wellbeing. I believe that I have lost career opportunities over the years because of my record. As a result, I have not been able to reach my full potential.

- 9. Regrettably, my family has also had to endure the consequences of my mistake. I had to pay restitution, which caused a financial strain on our household. In addition, I had planned to move to [State] with my spouse and three children so that I could support my mother, who was dealing with cancer at the time. We also believed that we would have a better life there. However, because of my probation, I had to stay in New York.
- 10. While these difficulties were the direct result of my actions, I do not want my family to have to endure any more stress because of a terrible mistake I made over 20 years ago. I am ashamed that I put them through these hardships, and I fear that my record will continue negatively impacting my family in unexpected ways.
- 11. I am seeking to have my record sealed so that I can find some closure and fully move forward with my life. By sealing my records, I believe I will be able to build a better future for me and my family and take advantage of opportunities to lead a meaningful, productive life. For these reasons, I respectfully request this Honorable Court grant my application for record sealing.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true and are made of my own free will. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Signed: ______ [Petitioner]

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

_____ day of _____, 2021

(notary)