



Ken Hagan
County Commissioner
District 5, Countywide

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to demonstrate my support for University of South Florida (USF) alumna and Tampa native Renee Warmack regarding the movies she is producing to showcase the life of Sam Piazza. Sam is an outstanding young man with Down syndrome who has succeeded in life, amid great odds.

I met Renee in 2012 when she worked for Hillsborough County government as a Legislative Aide. I and my staff found her to be bright, hard-working and personable. She is a former multi-sport, Chamberlain High School student-athlete (my alma mater) and played tennis on scholarship at USF.

Renee's first documentary film, *Ten at the Top in Tampa Bay*, celebrated female government leaders and promoted mentoring. It premiered on PBS, aired on government television and is used to inspire others to pursue their dreams. (Please view her background on the Internet Movie Database "IMDBPro" and ReneeWarmackProductions.com).

Renee grew up in a blue collar home and was the first person in her family to go to college. She earned her master's degree in Public Administration from USF and worked in local government for 20 years. She now successfully advocates for the underdog through her inspirational movies, engaging events and coaching program full-time through Renee Warmack Productions, LLC.

Sam Piazza is a local hero. His story is worthy of national prominence. Sam has a black belt in karate, is active in the Best Buddies program, was in ROTC, the Gaither basketball team manager, involved in Special Olympics; is an avid weightlifter, AND knows how to ride horses, thanks to Hillsborough County's Bakas Equestrian Center. He now works at PDQ – the company even named a menu item after him!

Renee's goals are to produce a documentary film and a feature movie:

To lift Sam, his family and their story up to the national prominence they deserve,

To inspire and help empower people with disabilities and their families,

To inform the communities in which people with disabilities live so that others will better understand them, support them and employ them.

Where Life Is Inspired

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Renee knows how to make movies, but she also possesses the unique skills to promote a cause, create enthusiasm among stakeholders and build community awareness and engagement.

As a Hillsborough County Commissioner and Film Tampa Bay (formerly the Tampa Bay Film Commission) member, I support Renee's efforts and will lend my contributions where and when possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (813) 272-5725 if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Ken Hagan

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Hillsborough County Commissioner

District 5