



Mariella Smith
County Commissioner
District 5, Countywide

July 17, 2019

To whom it may concern,

I am happy to write this letter of support for Renee Warmack and her documentary, *Because of Sam*, which will be screened at Tampa Theatre on July 29, 2019. The documentary is a vivid portrayal of Sam Piazza, a young man with Down syndrome who has overcome bullying and hardships to excel in athletics, become a community leader, and succeed in his employment at a local restaurant.

This documentary speaks to me as I have many years of experience working with people with disabilities in adaptive sports. And so, I am especially happy to see such a story told in a way that honors the subject and creates awareness of the issue. The film gives a well-rounded picture of an individual who is a person first, with many fine attributes, as well as being, secondarily, a person with a disability.

Ms. Warmack is an accomplished documentarian who has worked diligently to showcase important issues and inspirational individuals within our community. I am certain that this film screening will be successful and I wish her the best of luck on her future projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MARIELLA SMITH". The letters are cursive and connected.

Mariella Smith
Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 5 – Countywide