



UTAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF

MICHAEL L. SMITH

December 30, 2020

To Whom it May Concern,

I have known Mark Allen for several years. I have had the pleasure of working with him in his role as a protector and advocate for open space preservation in Utah and specifically the preservation of open space in American Fork Canyon. I became acquainted with Mark when I was serving as a chief of police. Mark had an agenda item on our city council meeting and presented his case for the preservation of American Fork Canyon and his opposition of the quiet plans to privatize public lands.

I was impressed with Mark's presentation and his passion for preserving this land for the public. I was impressed with his ability to gather public support and bring transparency to this issue. I was even more impressed when I learned Mark was doing this on his own time. I made it a point to introduce myself to him and since then I have had many opportunities to interact with Mark. I have been on numerous excursions with him to survey public areas, participate in clean-up projects, assist in recognition projects, and sit in council as committee members with the National Forest Service.

Most recently I was able to witness Mark shed public light on the potential sale of public lands at the Bridal Veil Falls area in Provo Canyon. Once again Mark learned of quiet plans to sell public lands and jumped into action to shed light on the plans and allow the public to have a voice. Due to Mark's actions, the land was placed under a permanent conservation easement to prevent the sale and development of this beautiful public area.

I have known Mark to be fierce in his pursuit of justice. Most importantly I have known him to be ethical and honest in a world where those qualities seem to be rare. I know Mark to have a strong work ethic and have seen multiple examples of projects that have been placed before him being completed timely and professionally.

I am grateful for Mark's efforts in the Utah County area and write this letter of reference and recommendation without hesitation.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Mike Smith