To whom it may concern,

I have known Dillon Fuston for over four years. I first met Dillon when I was a trainee officer. Dillon had a reputation as a hard worker who would help out trainees if they needed extra help. After being assigned to the same area command, I worked alongside Dillon in the busiest, most populated, and one of the most diverse areas of the city.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, our chief of police made a weekly video broadcast updating the department on various issues. I remember the chief of police twice mentioning Dillon as an example of what other officers should aspire to. In the first incident, Dillon responded to a traffic collision where a vehicle struck a fire hydrant. The vehicle was overturned and it was reported an infant was trapped in the vehicle. Water from the broken hydrant was spraying over 20 feet in the air and completely saturating the area. Without regard for his own safety and well-being, Dillon entered the vehicle to search for the infant. In the second incident, Dillon was flagged down by a woman who was searching for her daughter. Dillon was able to find out the daughter had recently ended her own life. Dillon went out of his way to provide support and comfort for the woman. She was so moved she contacted the chief of police directly to express her appreciation for how he handled a very difficult situation. As a new officer, Dillon's actions gave me a great example of the type of police officer I wanted to become. I became personal friends with Dillon not longer after these incidents.

Dillon and I shared the same passion for training to become better at our jobs. We attended several training events together. As our friendship grew, I learned more about who Dillon was as a person. I learned that Dillon is a caring, hardworking, honest, and trustworthy friend. Dillon supported me during times I was experiencing stress and uncertainty. Dillon has a deep conviction and an immovable moral compass.

I continued to work around Dillon until we were both assigned to the same specialized unit. The unit was responsible for handling a variety of community problems. Dillon was the leader of our small team and ensured that everyone was included and motivated to work hard to make the community safer. Dillon always made time to mentor newer officers. His reputation was being one of the most exemplary officers in our department. He was always calm during stressful situations and fair to everyone he came into contact with. I consider myself fortunate to have worked at the same unit as Dillon and credit him for having taught me many of the finer points in my law enforcement career.

After Dillon moved on to his new role as a deputy sheriff, we remained close. I continued to hear from other officers and members of the community how he was making a positive impact in the community he served. Dillon was recommended for several law enforcement awards in his first year at the Sheriff's Department which speaks volumes about his work ethic and willingness to serve the community.

Dillon is one of my closest friends. He is someone of impeccable moral character. He is an excellent example of a husband, father, and friend. He is trustworthy, reliable, and selfless. He is one of the most fair, honest, and caring law enforcement officers I know. If Dillon were no longer serving as a law enforcement officer, it would be a devastating loss to the community. Dillon serves as the example of what a peace officer should be. I know I look to him as an example.

Sincerely,

Elliot Simon[redacted]

San Diego Police Department