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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rev. Darryl W Kistler, and it is my honor to write a letter extolling the work and the teaching abilities of Mr. André Floyd. I have known André for three years and have worked closely with him on the annual Flathead Valley Martin Luther King Jr Community Celebration. Our celebration of Dr King's legacy is hosted by Flathead High School and is attended by a great number of students. André's plain talk and straight forward message of acceptance, respect, and understanding, as well as his phenomenal blues music which he performs, has been a highlight of our annual program each of these past three years. André uses the music of the blues to champion such important values of honoring diversity, protecting students from being bullied, and creating a safe space for youth – especially to ease any emotions that might lead to a young person taking their own life. As chair of the planning team of the annual MLK event, I know I speak for our entire committee, when I say we appreciate André and his ability to reach out and connect in meaningful ways with the young people of our community.

I have also witnessed his prowess as a music teacher, mentor, and historian of young people in our community. André is the music teacher and mentor to a good number of students. And I have witnessed firsthand how he has not only passed along the technical skills needed to play blues guitar to his protégés but he has also passed down the history of the music and its power to relate story and message. It is an understatement to say that André is steeped in the blues. He is a passionate student of its history and how it has transitioned throughout time into its contemporary form. And he educates his pupils likewise.

I do not believe you could do any better than André Floyd - he is a tremendous asset to our community. I would be more than willing to discuss further André's virtues and attributes as a performer, teacher, mentor, historian, and community leader. Please feel free to contact me at your leisure.

Sincerely,

Rev. Darryl W Kistler