EXHIBIT G

US v. Durk Banks

Case No. 24-cr-621-MWF

ACADEMY OF HOPE | SECOND CHANCE UNIVERSITY
academyofhopeglobal.org • andrenorman.com • dre@andrenorman.com

October 25, 2026

The Honorable Michael W. Fitzgerald
United States District Judge
United States District Court, Central District of California
Los Angeles, California

Re: United States v. Durk Banks — Letter in Support of Release on Bond

Your Honor,

I write in respectful support of Mr. Durk Banks's request for release on bond. My name is Andre Norman. I am the founder of the Academy of Hope and Second Chance University, and for the past 27 years I have worked inside prisons, on city streets, and alongside governments and law enforcement around the world to reduce violence and help people become the best version of themselves. If the Court grants Mr. Banks bond, I am prepared to serve as his personal mentor, and I write to tell the Court who I am, what I have done, and what I will do.

I do not come to this work with only an idea. I spent 14 years in prison in Massachusetts. I entered the system at 18 with seven concurrent sentences, and I was considered one of the most violent and dangerous prisoners in the history of the Commonwealth, so much so that I was transferred to nine different states for being violent and incorrigible. I spent two and a half years in solitary confinement. It was there that I decided to change, and my goal was not simply to get out of prison; it was to go to Harvard University. I earned my GED, studied law, won my appeal, and was paroled in November 1999. I know from experience what it takes for a man to turn his life around, and I know what support he needs to stay on that path.

Since my release, that has been my life's work. In 1999 I began building reentry programming, one of the first such efforts in the country. I pioneered the credible messenger model, which places people with lived experience at the table to bridge the gap between communities and law enforcement, and which is now used in major cities across the United States. I originated Boston's violence interrupter program, contributed to the work of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives established by President George W. Bush, and consulted with the Pentagon on suicide prevention to help our servicemen, who are dying at an alarming rate. I have advised the United Nations on counter-terrorism and worked for peace in more than 25 countries, including Honduras, South Africa, Liberia, Guatemala, Trinidad, and the Bahamas.

Mentoring is the heart of everything we do. In April 2018, a riot at Lee Correctional Institution in South Carolina left seven men dead in three hours, and the entire state prison system was placed on lockdown. I was brought in to help restore order and institutional safety. I visited ten prisons in six days and spoke with more than 8,000 incarcerated men. We then brought our mentoring program inside: working with the South Carolina Department of Corrections, we placed 50 gang leaders in a single dorm

under the mentorship of the Academy of Hope, and we mentored those men until they became mentors to others. Within a calendar year, Lee went from seven deaths to a single fistfight, and one of the men in our program later risked his own life to save a correctional lieutenant who was being attacked with a knife. That same mentoring model is what we carry everywhere we go, from prison systems across the country to the Academy of Hope's current programming inside New York State correctional facilities, and to the more than 650,000 incarcerated people our content reaches daily on tablets nationwide.

I have served as a Fellow at Harvard Law School, a visiting professor at Tufts University, a trainer at London Business School, and a trainer for the American Correctional Association. I have stood beside the Attorney General, police chiefs, wardens, academics, and global leaders, and our shared goal has always been the same: safer communities and changed lives.

I share this so the Court understands that Mr. Banks would not be released into a vacuum. He would be released into the same mentoring, structure, and accountability that have changed thousands of lives. I believe in Mr. Banks and in the good that he can do with the right structure. His voice reaches young people whom many of us cannot reach on our own, and I have seen firsthand how much good one credible voice can do.

If bond is granted, I will personally mentor Mr. Banks. I will maintain regular, direct contact with him, help him stay focused, and hold him accountable to every condition the Court sets. With the approval of the Court and Pretrial Services, he will join me in visiting youth and adult institutions, serving men and women alike, to encourage others to do and be better. With the Court's permission, he will also join me in reaching more than 650,000 incarcerated people through Second Chance University's digital program. I will remain available to his counsel and to Pretrial Services, and I will not hesitate to raise any concern.

In 1999, I made a promise to the Chairman of the Parole Board that I would come home and make things better. For the last 27 years, I have kept that promise. Today, I make a promise to this Court: if Mr. Banks is released on bond, he will be in good hands, and he will receive the mentoring and support he needs to honor the Court's trust and to contribute to society. I respectfully ask the Court to grant Mr. Banks release on bond. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Andre Norman
Founder & CEO, Academy of Hope | Second Chance University
Harvard Law School Fellow
dre@andrenorman.com | www.andrenorman.com