To whom it may concern,

My name is Joe DeMaro. I obtained my Master’s Degree from the Marshall University Forensic Science program, specializing in crime scene investigation and forensic DNA analysis. Previously, I received my undergraduate degree from Purdue University in Biology, specializing in genetics and neurobiology and physiology with minors in Forensics, Russian, and Psychology. During my time at Purdue and Marshall, I have been involved in the development and improvement of active shooter prevention protocols including providing better information to first responders in the event of an active shooter. Even before my higher-level education, I gained an interest and healthy respect for firearms.

My interest in firearms is three-pronged. The first and foremost of these interests is encouraging and teaching safe and responsible firearm handling. Shooting is a great sport for all ages when supervised, and as the captain of St. Louis University High School’s Rifle Team, I was tasked with teaching underclassman how to shoot safely. This was quite an undertaking, but with the aid of my fellow team members, we were able to teach the future members of SLUH’s team. On a personal level, whenever handling firearms or replicas, I always follow the basic rules of gun safety. If I am comfortable with the firearm I check to ensure it is unloaded, and if necessary take the required steps to render the firearm safe while being displayed or handled. In addition to being familiar with the rules of safety associated with firearm handling, I am also familiar and current with the National Firearms Act of 1934 and its modifications as well as previous bans and legislation related to firearm and accessory possession, modification, and sale. I am also familiar with the conceal carry laws, as well as NFA item ownership statuses of several states including my home state of Missouri, as well previous residences of Indiana and West Virginia. Finally, I am committed to staying current of technologies and laws surrounding firearms.

The second prong involves a large amount of time spent educating myself not only on safety and safe handling of firearms but also on the inner workings of many modern firearms including those manufactured by Fabrique Nationale de Herstal (FNH) and Smith and Wesson, particularly the M&P series of handgun. As an owner of an M&P .40 full size, I have taken great care to familiarize myself with not only the workings and maintenance of the firearm but also aftermarket parts and modifications. I am familiar with and have had the opportunity to handle a variety modern firearms. A personal interest in the firearm has driven me to become familiar with the FN SCAR family of firearms. During graduate school, I successfully completed the National Institute of Justice Firearms Examiner course in the course of a class offered by the university. This course set the stage for the forensic application of knowledge I previously gained. I make a concerted effort to handle firearms when I can, learn about new weapons, and ask questions to ensure the information I have is correct and up to date.

The final component of my firearms education and background is rooted in experience from lab classes taken at Purdue, the NIJ Firearms Examiner course and my training at the Arkansas State Crime Lab. This experience combined with my previous knowledge provides me the forensic background necessary to collect, examine, and process firearm and firearm-related evidence. Properly processing firearm evidence requires a respect for the weapon itself as well as a working knowledge of the firearm allowing it be rendered safe, operated, and tested for functionality. Delineating a deliberate shooting from an accidental discharge through a dropped gun (Siminov Carbine with floating firing pin) can mean the difference between freedom and incarceration. I am committed to science and committed to justice, I have been since a very young age. The forensic examination of firearms is the culmination of years of formal and informal education in firearms and forensics.

In brief, I have discussed a few points from my own education and experience that are critical for an effective firearms examiner. I strongly believe that with my previous education, formal and informal, as well as my commitment to continuing education and the ability to learn and understand complex manufacture and testing processes, I would be a great fit and critical asset to your laboratory.

Please consider the points I have mentioned above in your decision. I might lack formal education in some areas, but I believe my commitment to education from owners and retailers of firearms helps fill any gaps. I rarely pass an opportunity to safely handle firearms when permitted. This serves as both a learning experience when encountering new technology and a means of ensuring that I am current with the industry. Firearms manufacture and modification is an evolving industry incorporating legal discussion that shows no sign of slowing down. You need someone who is committed to keeping up and staying ahead and that someone is me.

I look forward to hearing from you and am extremely grateful for your time and patience,

If you have further questions for me, please do not hesitate to contact me by the email address or cell number provided.

Thank you,

Joe DeMaro, M.S. B.S.