

Please find this letter to be my nomination for the Dr. Janet Williams Humanitarian Award. I would like to nominate social work supervisor Anthony Gay from the Torrington Office. During this past summer, during the national unrest of racial divide in our country, Mr. Gay advocated for DCF to take-action. He suggested Youth Forum for our youth in care to ensure someone was having "the talk" with our youth of color. His biggest concern was to keep our youth safe and supported. During this Youth Forum, DCF youth were able to participate and discuss the emerged themes on racial justice as it related to their safety, emotional stability, and support.

In the fall of 2020, Mr. Gay, cofacilitated the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Dads Matter Too! Conference. The theme of this conference was Reshaping Fatherhood: Striving for Equality and Equity When Engaging Fathers of Color. During this two-day virtual conference, participants focused on the roles and contributions of fathers, especially fathers of color.

Right before the pandemic, Mr. Gay was going to the DOC Training Academy and training new DOC Counselors and Correction Officers on how partner and work with the inmates. He spoke to the DOC staff on the contributing factors that may had led inmates into the incarcerated system.

On his personal time, Mr. Gay sits on the board of the Waterbury Hispanic Coalition and also does outreach work with the black churches within his community.

Finally, every Thursday night Mr. Gay holds a virtual support group for black fathers all over America. He does this on his own time and utilizes his own resources.

**Mr. Gay shows a strong passion for the youth and families within the Black Community. He is committed to finding resources, providing support and educating all to better serve the Black Community within DCF and beyond.**