

# Exhibit A

**SHELDON SILVER**  
**550 Grand Street**  
**New York, New York 10002**

April 14, 2016

The Honorable Valerie E. Caproni  
United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
40 Foley Square  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Judge Caproni:

As my sentencing approaches, I continue to dwell on my conviction and my actions leading up to it. My attorneys know that I am writing to Your Honor and have advised me not to comment on the facts of my case or the jury's verdict, given the motions they filed and my possible appeal. Still, I ask Your Honor to please consider my thoughts and reflections in this letter when determining my sentence.

I failed the people of New York. There is no question about it. Other than my family, serving my constituents was the most important thing to me. I worked hard to make sure that the Assembly remained the "People's House." I wanted the Assembly and all of its members to be accessible and available to the people. What I have done has hurt the Assembly, and New York, and my constituents terribly, and I regret that more than I can possibly express. Because of my actions, New York's ethics rules were and continue to be analyzed, evaluated, and criticized, everywhere. I worked hard for many years to make sure the Assembly and its members were respected as a vital legislative body. Because of me, the government has been ridiculed. I let my peers down, I let the people of the State down, and I let down my constituents – the people of lower Manhattan that I live among and fought for. They deserve better.

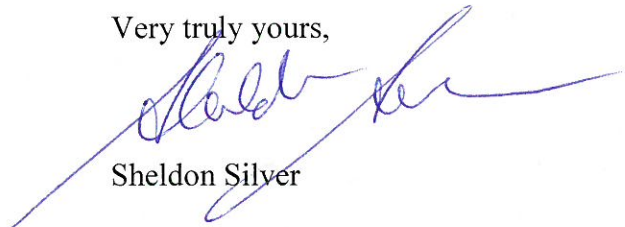
Your Honor said during my trial that just because a person acts positively on some or many occasions doesn't mean that they don't act wrongfully on other occasions. I understand that, truly. But I respectfully ask Your Honor to examine the "good things" I have tried to do as a public servant and as an individual – many of which are presented in our Sentencing Memorandum and discussed in the letters that accompany it. I hope Your Honor will read them and consider what I'd like to think is a lifetime of hard work and many good deeds.

As I will continue to do every day, I apologize to the Court, the people of the State of New York (particularly my constituents and my former colleagues), and most of all, my loving

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family that has stood beside me always.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheldon Silver", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sheldon Silver