



ATLANTA
PAVING & CONCRETE
CONSTRUCTION INC.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Potential Client,

I have known Ernest T. Lopez III, President and Chief Executive Officer of Atlanta Paving & Concrete Construction, Inc. (APCC) for almost 10-years. I initially met Ernie when I was the President at Riverside Military Academy (RMA) in Gainesville, Georgia; where Ernie was, and still remains a loyal and generous alumnus. He continues to donate both time and financial resources to the school today to provide the leadership and scholastic opportunities to tomorrows young leaders. During my seven-year tenure as the President of RMA, I had the opportunity to get to know Ernie professionally and became aware of the superb company he built. I witnessed first-hand the incredible work ethic and leadership skills he exhibits year-over-year as the company continues to grow. Ernie credits much of his significant success as a leader, businessman, and entrepreneur to the self-discipline and character inherent in the military model of education fostered at RMA; as well as the positive influence exhibited by his father, a career Special Forces Senior Non-Commissioned Officer and Airborne Ranger in the United States Army.

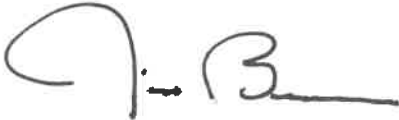
During the 2007-2009 economic recession when the markets crashed, so did the asphalt paving and concrete construction industry. When other competitors were laying-off employees, Ernie and his spouse Donna, were selling assets and spreading the reduced workload around in order to keep every single worker employed with benefits. This and many other acts of unprecedented generosity created a dedicated, experienced, and loyal workforce that truly lives the company motto of, "Any job, Any place, Any time -- Bar none". Ernie's leadership and selfless service created a \$38 MM a year organization that thrives on tough jobs and satisfied customers. APCC is one of the premier world-class paving, milling, grading, stabilization, sealing and striping, full-depth reclamation, and concrete companies, and possesses the equipment, knowledge, and expertise to compete far and wide, as is evidenced by their projects in over 26 states and 200+ cities.

Upon retirement from RMA, I founded a consulting company specializing in small and medium-sized businesses and private schools to consult and assist with strategic planning, executive hiring, preparation of foundation documents, and best business practices. Soon afterwards, I became a consultant for APCC and got to know Ernie and Donna (an entrepreneur in her own right) personally as colleagues and friends.

As I got to work closely with Ernie, I began to realize that he was not just a visionary businessman, but also possessed great personal values to include a sense of right and wrong and personal courage that are not always observed in business and government today. Ernie's word is truly his bond, and he always takes the "hard right" over the "easier wrong".

After being asked to Chair the Board of Directors at APCC, I have enjoyed the friendship, hospitality, and work ethic of the Lopez family. Likewise, I have grown to appreciate the quality workmanship, unsurpassed dedication, and ethical business practices of the men and women at APCC. The workforce is truly a reflection of Ernie's leadership and character, which exemplifies their company motto of "Where Quality Still Counts", and I commend them to you! You will never regret hiring this company to tackle your most difficult milling, full depth reclamation, paving, and concrete construction projects.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. H. Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a distinct "B" at the end.

Dr. James H. Benson

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Atlanta Paving & Concrete Construction, Inc.

Author of:

"So You Want to Be a Leader – Advice and Counsel for Young Leaders" second edition published by Trafford Publishing Company in 2013

"Executive Courage – Sometimes You Have to Walk Point" to be published by Next Century Publishing Company in October, 2018