

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Adam Ozuna, I am a Local businessman in the Salt Lake City Area and the western states, I am very pleased to write a character reference letter for my friend Mike Hardin.

Mike and I have been very good friends over the Years. I Have known Mike for the last 10 years, I have always been amazed at seeing Mike's level of enthusiasm and dedication for Hard work, He has personally taken time out of his schedule to accommodate other people when it could have been very easy to say no, he would always say yes.

He is the type of person who I've seen go above and beyond both as a police officer and as a civilian, I've seen him show compassion and understanding on countless occasions, your Honor, I hope and pray that you can understand that Mike, is so much more than the 4 hours of his life that you know about him.

I've seen him as Father a stepfather who took on young kids and loved them as his own, a Husband a Police Officer, and a friend, the sum of all my experiences with Mike, lets me know he is so much more than that Sad day.

I'm not one who agrees with what happened on Jan 6th in our capital, I found it quite disturbing to watch, but as I said above, I know more about Mike than those 4 hours. He is a good man who just made a mistake that day.

Lessons in life Can Be a valuable teacher, I am sure all of us have had some setbacks in our lives that have Taken away some Valuable life learning that has made us all better Citizens.

I know this to be true for Mike Hardin as I have spoken with him over the past year, I see a new humility and openness to hear both sides of the story and a willingness to not get caught up in the energy of the moment.

I hope that mercy can temper justice and that all the good Mike, has Done in his life will be a better example of what we can all expect to form him.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Ozuna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Adam Ozuna

Alisha Richmond

03/31/2022

To whom it may concern,

I am aware of the charges brought against Michael Hardin for “parading in the US Capitol” on January 6, 2021. I am also aware that Mr. Hardin has plead guilty to this charge.

I am writing this letter on my own free will because I feel that it is important to express the kind of man, I know Mr. Hardin to be. I hope this letter will help persuade those to look beyond mistakes and offer leniency in Mr. Hardin’s sentence.

I have known Mr. Hardin for approximately five years and knew of him prior to that. Mr. Hardin is a retired Police Officer from Salt Lake City, Utah. I too am a Police Officer of almost 15 years and had heard of Mr. Hardin from working investigations. I never heard anything negative about his character or work ethic.

In 2017 Mr. Hardin assisted my husband and I in purchasing a home. This is where I confirmed that Mr. Hardin is indeed a hard working and caring person. Mr. Hardin went above and beyond to help my family find a home that fits for us. He was honest in his dealings with us and was always available to help. This professional relationship turned into a friendship; we know we can count on Mr. Hardin.

Mr. Hardin may have had a lapse in judgement with the events that occurred on January 6, 2021. However, he is not a right wing radical. He is not a terrorist, and he does not pose any threat to this country. I know Mr. Hardin loves God, our country, his family, our troops, and law enforcement.

I pray that the court will find leniency in sentencing and will see Mr. Hardin as I see him, an American citizen that loves our nation and its people. Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this letter. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Alisha Richmond

To Whom It May Concern,

March 29, 2022

I am writing for and on behalf of Mike Hardin. It is my understanding that the court is looking for more information about Mike and I would like this statement addressing my knowledge of Mike's character to be added to that information and will hopefully assist the court in knowing Mike better.

I am currently a sergeant with the Salt Lake City Police Department where my assignment is the sergeant of the burglary/property crimes unit. I have worked in law enforcement for 17 years with most of my career being with Salt Lake City PD. I have also worked on the DEA Task Force, the ICAC Task Force, and have assisted with protection details for political figures and dignitaries among other assignments.

Mike was also a police officer/detective for the Salt Lake City PD for 20+ years and retired with an impressive career of service. Mike's reputation preceded him before I personally met him. What I heard of him was that he was an excellent investigator within the burglary and homicide units with which he served. I also knew of his willingness to assist fellow officers with home building projects, assisting them with real estate home purchases, sales, and rentals. In each conversation I had with people who knew Mike it was that he was a man of impeccable character that you could count on and trust.

It was because of Mike's reputation that I sought him out when I was looking to buy a home. It was at this time that I really got to know Mike and the genuine, honest, trustworthy person he is. After the first home purchase I completed with Mike, he helped me sale that home and purchase another one. Mike's work ethic and honest business dealings were on display as he helped me and my family get another home to live in. Mike always went above and beyond while explaining complicated processes so that we could understand them. He was always there with answers to a multitude of questions.

I have now known Mike on a personal level for over 5 years and overall, for 10 years. I know Mike to love this country, love law and order and espouses the higher ideals of our Declaration of Independence and US Constitution. Mike loved liberty and freedom so much that he dedicated over 20 years of his life to serve these ideals in law enforcement. He is a husband and a father and a friend to many.

I ask in your good judgement to view Mike not as someone who lived in one small incident of time, but to look at him within the whole of his life. I implore you to grant Mike leniency and allow him to return home to his family.

If you have any questions, concerns or need anything from me related to what I know of Mike I am available to you that you can ask. I Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bret Richmond

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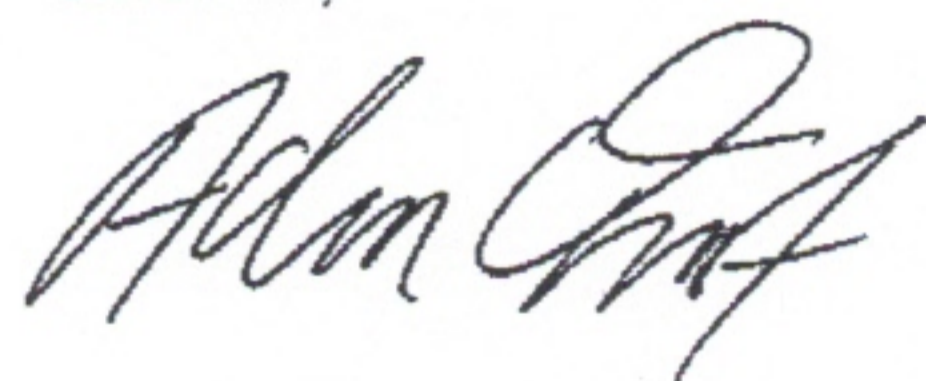
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If you have any questions, concerns or need anything from me related to what I know of Mike I am available to you that you can ask. I Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bret Richmond

[REDACTED]

3/29/22, 12:49 PM

Gmail - A plea for Mike Hardin



A plea for Mike Hardin

1 message

Debra Rudd

To: Mike Hardin

Tue, Mar 29, 2022 at 11:13 AM

A plea for Mike Hardin

Sometimes our lives overlap with others only briefly. We share troubles or laughter or learning, and move on. Afterwards all we hold onto is a memory. The chapter of our lives passes like the storm or sunshine or an ordinary day, but the heavens always send us something new. A chance for a new lease on life, a soulmate or a friend, and the best is like love itself, it flies back to us and at last it finds its home...

Mike has had many trials in his life like all of us. Dark spaces in our life hopefully help move us to a brighter day, to see the sunshine and an understanding that God can give us. When we listen we learn and we understand.

Looking back on the things we have done can make us stronger, and help us to become more wiser, even though sometimes it hurts, because of the choices that we allowed ourselves to make.

Sometimes we make choices to rally, to be a part of something good, something empowering, that can bring peace to ourselves and others in the world. We all make mistakes and we all have forgiveness that we can partake of and move forward in a way of vulnerability and humility for the mistakes we've made.

When we are in that place looking back upon our life's, that is the very moment that we learn. That is the very moment we can make new choices, better choices moving forward in our lives.

We are here but a short time on this earth. It's important to look at the legacy that we each hold within ourselves. We can share it or we may feel that we need to hide it because of what someone else might think.

Getting caught up in the masses of humanity, forging forward for something they think is right or good, it has no malice it has no thought of hurting another, or creating chaos and losing control of one's gift of mine.


There are rallies in all shapes and forms. Emotions get heightened and that's where mistakes are made whether big or small. There are leaders and there are followers. In these cases, and there's something about uniting together as a whole. But you can get caught up in something that seemed very innocent like swimming in a school of fish. The Fisherman's net will catch them all.

Mike was not a man in this case that was a leader. He got caught up in the masses and excitement of it all. I'm not saying that what he did was right, but he did not go forward with intention of destroying property. He is a family man. He has his personal trials as we all do, to be the best we can be. Even though he is at a low tide, he has found help and guidance to move forward in a positive way, even though there is despair, despondency and uncertainty hanging over his head for being caught up in the energy of the crowd.

He's like a little boy that wasn't supposed to pick flowers for his mom from the neighbor's yard. But it was too enticing because he wanted to pick flowers for his mom because he loved her. Mike wanted to be in Washington to be a part of the freedom we have in our country to stand for good justice in the midst of chaos of our country.

My plea is that you will look at the man in his entirety, look at the things that are good that he has accomplished in his life. The things he is still destined to do that are worthy for himself and his family. Hopefully he can learn from this mistake even though he was just the follower. Maybe it will help him to learn to be a leader for all things right, all things good, and all things righteous.

You for listening, Debra Rudd



To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jim Spangenberg, and I am a retired police detective and I have known Mike Hardin for approximately 20 years. Mike dedicated his entire career as a police detective to the citizens of Salt Lake City, and more importantly, to the families of the victims that were taken by senseless acts of violence. Mike was a relentless investigator that never gave up and he did everything in his power to seek justice for those whose voices had been silenced. I've known Mike to be a hardworking, honest individual, that I could count on for anything that ever came up in my life. Mike is a dedicated family man that makes family his priority.

Please let me know if you would like to discuss Mike at greater length.

Thank you,

Jim Spangenberg

[REDACTED]

CHARACTER AFFIDAVIT

March 31, 2022


I, Randall Lance Willson, hereby certify and swear that I am an adult over the age of 18 and that the statements below are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

I have known Mike Hardin for approximately ten years. When I first met Mike he was a homicide detective for Salt Lake City and was dating my sister-in-law. I was a licensed mortgage loan officer and Mike sent me a few referrals of fellow Police Officers that needed mortgage financing. What I learned working with these officers is that Mike had a great professional reputation. He was respected by his peers and was known for his integrity. I recall being told that on a few occasions Mike was pressured to go along with a suicide narrative for cases that he felt strongly were murder and not suicide. When I asked Mike about it, he stated that he felt he had an obligation to the deceased and their family to make sure the case was fully investigated and to not take the easy way out by calling it a suicide when that was likely not the case. I thought that reflected a determination to do what's right.


After Mike retired as a Detective, I witnessed first hand his professionalism as a Real Estate Agent and financial planner. In the course of interaction directly with Mike over the years I have learned that Mike is honest and of good moral character. I trust his opinion and ethics. When our daughter died this last summer, Mike was one of the first people we called. His opinion and support during the single worst moment of our lives as parents was appreciated more than could ever be expressed.


While I cannot speak of the events at the Capital on January 6 because I was not there, I'm certain that Mike wouldn't have been a threat to person or property as that would have been outside his character and normal response. Mike has always spoken in terms of protecting the safety of others and respecting property.

Thank you,



R. Lance Willson

DeLand Investigations
Private Investigators 

Nicholas Y. DeLand


March 31, 2022

Re: Michael Lee Hardin, 1:21-cr-280

Naturally, it is expected there are some in my life who espouse political beliefs that differ from my own, and I respect that. It was not expected, however, that my friend and former Salt Lake City Police Department colleague would one day be arrested in connection with the events at the United States Capitol Building occurring on January 6, 2021. Though I was disappointed to learn of his participation, I write this letter on behalf of Michael Hardin because I believe his sincerity that it was the worst decision of his life.

For the better part of two decades Mike and I served together as police officers in Salt Lake City, and I've seen him for who he is, a good and moral man who became a police officer, ultimately a homicide detective, to serve his fellow citizens and protect those who would be victimized by others. I'm saddened that this momentary lapse of reason will leave a lasting scar personally and professionally. We all make mistakes, and one mistake should not define us, even this one he has made. Like my friend Mike, I believe in second chances, and I appeal to this court to grant him one as he has done for others.

With great respect,


Nicholas Y. DeLand

3/29/22, 6:05 PM

Gmail Character statement in regards to Michael L. Hardin



Character statement in regards to Michael L. Hardin

1 message

Alicia Williams [REDACTED]

Tue, Mar 29, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Character statement in regards to Michael L. Hardin

Date: 03/29/2022

To whom it may concern;

My name is Roger K. Williams, [REDACTED] I am a citizen of The United States of America, residing in Utah for 55 years. I have never been convicted of a criminal offense in my lifetime. I have been married to my wife for the last 32 years and we have two sons, one of which is a Police Officer. Both are law abiding, productive members of society.

I have spent 33 years of my life serving the citizens of Utah as a Police Officer during which time I received numerous accolades, awards and promotions achieving the rank of Lieutenant. During this time I have come to know the difference between good people and bad people and believe I am a very good judge of character.

Also during this time, I had the good fortune to work closely with, and, come to know Michael (Mike) Hardin, another well accomplished Police Officer. I have known Mike Hardin for over 25 years and have always known him to be an honest, law abiding, hardworking, and patriotic member of society. I have known Mike to make personal sacrifices such as changing long standing personal and family plans at the last minute in order to accomplish missions which resulted in the betterment of the community. I have known Mike Hardin to frequently place his own needs, safety and well-being behind those of people he didn't even know. I'm absolutely certain that, had the situation arisen that called for Mike to lay down his life for another, he would have.

I know, trust and respect Mike to the degree that I would walk through any door with him and I would have total confidence he would act in my (and others) best interest no matter what. I know Mike well enough to know he places great importance on doing what he knows to be right despite the personal sacrifices or costs he may incur. I know, trust and respect Mike enough to have entrusted my (and my wife's) financial future to him as he acted as our financial advisor. I know and trust Mike well enough to have risked my own reputation by referring others to him to use as their financial advisor. Mike is one of only a small handful of people I would / could write these things about.

In closing;

Our society and our country are better due to men like Michael Hardin and I know Mike well enough to know he wants only what is best for his family, his fellow citizens and his country. He would never intentionally do anything to undermine those interests.

Sincerely,

Roger K. Williams

Shelley Elaine Oram

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 30th, 2022

RE: Mr. Mike Hardon (Class B Misdemeanor)

To The Honorable Judge Timothy Kelly,

It is my honor to be writing on behalf of Mike Hardon. I have known Mike Hardon for over 5 years. He is not only a good friend but also supports my family and I as our financial advisor. Mike Hardon is 100% trust worthy and honest. He is a dedicated husband and father and supports his community. It is my hope this letter will act as a positive and contributing factor when the court considers this matter.

Sincerely,

Shelley Oram

Shelley Oram

CHARACTER AFFIDAVIT

March 31, 2022

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Character statement in regards to Michael L. Hardin

1 message

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