

c/o Ms. Elizabeth Mullin  
625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 550 Washington, DC 20004  
The Honorable Judge Friedrich  
US District Court for the District of Columbia

RE: William Rogan Reid

Dear Judge Friedrich:

My name is Denise Reid Raska and I am William Rogan Reid's mom. I am a commercial real estate appraiser and have been at the same company going on 37 years. As such, I have been writing lengthy, comprehensive reports for decades and yet this has been more difficult to write than the most complex assignment I've ever had. It's very hard to encapsulate all the things I'd like you to know about my son in a letter, but I will try to keep it short

Rogan, as he is known to all his friends and family is a smart and compassionate person who has such caring and concern for those around him. He cares deeply about his family and his country. He has always been an avid reader, with a love for learning but especially history and his country. As a very young child, he was always a history buff. He had framed parchment paper copies of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution on his bedroom wall since he purchased them in Washington DC on a 5<sup>th</sup> grade school trip. And for years the American Flag was respectfully hung on his wall. He always admired the founding fathers' brilliance and great foresight in putting together a document that provided the framework for our country that has stood the test of time for over 200 years. He sailed through his AP History exams in high school and truly could have been a respected scholar in this area. In high school, his debate skills were exceptional. I truly don't know many young kids that actually read the Constitution, Declaration, Articles of Confederation, or just read avidly for that matter. To sum it up, Rogan loves his country.

I mentioned his care and concern for others. Rogan has always looked out for others. All others. Quite simply starting from a young age saving turtles crossing busy roads, taking injured birds to the wildlife care center or rescuing ducklings that fell into storm drains, etc. The list goes on but to my point, it's always been about taking care of and protecting those around him. Rogan became a big brother at 16 months of age and immediately took to his new role. Growing up he worried and looked out for his "younger" brother (many times to Ryan's great annoyance) and subsequently, his little sister who was born 10 years later. He worried they would get hurt and later that they might get into trouble. He was a straightlaced, good kid growing up who steered away from the kinds of things high schoolers can be tempted by. He looked after and worried about his siblings, and for that matter, his friends too, never wanting them to get into trouble or bad habits. Rogan is well-loved and has so many close friends to this day.

The most important thing in his life came along when he was 24. Nothing comes close to that deep love you feel for your own child. Lily is his pride and joy and rightfully so. She is wonderfully smart, wickedly funny and beautiful. She gets so much of her intellect, humor and sarcasm from her dad. Though I do add that Lily's mom, Diane is both smart and beautiful and a wonderful mom. Which is so important right now, as Lily has had nearly two years without her dad at such a crucial time in her young life, the middle school

years. Rogan has missed her last two birthdays, her 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, due to his incarceration. And that I can tell you, without a doubt, 100% is his biggest regret.

Rogan is a great father. He has spent so much quality time with his daughter since she was born. Like his own father, he is amazing in the way he interacts with and teaches her. He has so much patience and speaks to her on a level that doesn't talk down to her. He encourages her to want to learn more, know more, be inquisitive and always want to know more about the world around her. They have favorite books, movies, music and activities they love to do together. As a mom, it is a beautiful thing to watch your child and grandchild have such love and affection for each other. As Rogan's mom and Lily's grandmother, this is now a source of my greatest sadness, knowing how much each of them are missing each other. And knowing Rogan has lost out on so much of Lily's life he will never get back. I pray they can be together soon and resume that beautiful relationship and special bond they share. I know too that that is Rogan's sincerest wish as well.

During his time away, Rogan has maintained his presence in her life. He has written many letters, sent her drawings she requested, speaks to her over the phone asking about her day and her classes and her plans, etc. He never fails to ask about her every time we speak, which is several times daily. Furthermore, he typically calls every afternoon right before her school day ends to check how she is getting home. He worries whether she is taking the bus or expecting to be picked up. He worries about her each day and is still her concerned dad, parenting as best he can from afar. And she of course, still loves and adores him though there is a deep void in both their lives.

Most everyone that knows my son would describe him as witty, brilliant, fun, loving and caring. His sense of humor is amazing. However, please know I am aware (as is he) that his social media posts can be described otherwise and to this I would say that he knew they were sometimes, oftentimes, vulgar or offensive to many, though he felt he was being just being irreverent. And he also knew time and place and wouldn't use most of that language in other settings. I can tell you that without question that alcohol has impaired his judgement. Rogan has suffered from anxiety for years now and he self-medicated to overcome these anxieties. Rogan would be out in a social setting and over imbibe, though he felt he was handling his intake. Rogan doesn't drink at home and he doesn't drink in front of his daughter. But his problem with alcohol increased when his new business failed due to the pandemic and I can see now that a lot of his on-line ranting was done while he was under the influence of alcohol. Again, not an excuse, but people do become more uninhibited, and frankly stupid when drunk. My son included.

It's unfortunate that he allowed drinking to encourage bad choices including running his mouth on social media in obnoxious, drunken rants. Rogan is not violent by any means but he does have a big mouth and when bolstered by booze he can clearly spew vicious words.

With all of this said, how did we get from there to where he is today. In December 2020 I begged him to go with his sister and his daughter to Charlotte for New Year's. Rogan has not flown since he was 16 due to his anxieties and had missed many other opportunities to celebrate with his family in North Carolina. I insisted he "get over" his fear of flying and booked him a ticket to accompany his daughter. He went, they all had a great time and then their return flights were cancelled on or around January 3<sup>rd</sup>. In that delay, he decided he was close enough to go to the rally on January 6<sup>th</sup> and he assured me he was only going to see the President speak. On this day, not only did the speech and the crowd fire him up but so did the alcohol he consumed all day. He made a very bad choice and a terrible mistake and he knows it. He knows that the country and the constitution he so loves and believes in has a process. And he knows he

undermined the democratic process. He never had any plans to enter the Capitol or any other building. But things escalated, and he made a very poor, booze-induced choice to follow the crowd towards and not away from the building. He has told me time and time again, long before his arrest, that it was a very bad and regrettable decision and he wishes he had it to do over as his choice would be vastly different.

Rogan and I have had conversations since about his presence on social media and he has expressed remorse for the language he used. He understands that his words can frighten and incite others. Not only that, Rogan understands the damage he can do to others and himself just through his words. He truly understands how other people might react to his language.

I do not feel my son is perfect by any means or without his mistakes. But I want you to know that he is first and foremost, and always, that kind, compassionate and smart person. Some of his actions would make one believe otherwise, but I know he has all those good qualities and more. If given the chance, he will make the most of it and prove he is the good, standup guy that he truly is at his core. I hope that his true character, minus alcohol-fueled actions, is apparent and that he has the opportunity to show it. As his mother, I will be there to support him in getting the treatment he needs when he is released from prison.

Thank you for taking the time to consider who Rogan is beyond his regrettable actions of January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Denise Raska". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Denise" and last name "Raska" clearly legible.

Denise Reid Raska