

Date: May/8/23

Hon. Dabney L. Friedrich
United States District Judge
District of Columbia

Dear Your Honor:

My name is Mendy Baoron I'm a CEO of Master Lighting Productions.

I know Menachem since I was born, we lived in the same building growing up as kids and went to the same schools. We grew up together our entire lives, we also rented an apartment together for a year or two. And menachem was my best man at my wedding and I was his.

There are few people in this world who embody the true meaning of friendship and support, and Menachem is one of them. His unwavering loyalty and selflessness have touched my heart in countless ways.

When I was serving in the military, Menachem was a constant source of comfort and encouragement. He would call me every day to check in and see how I was doing, even when he had his own challenges to face. And when I was discharged from the military, Menachem went above and beyond to celebrate this milestone with me. Despite my family being unable to make the journey, Menachem flew across the world just to be by my side and share in my joy.

But Menachem's kindness didn't end there. When I was in my twenties and struggling to establish credit, I found myself in need of a cosigner to lease a car. Despite my pleas for help falling on deaf ears, Menachem was the only one who stepped up and put his own credit on the line to help me. And when I needed help moving into a new home, Menachem once again proved to be the friend I could always count on.

Menachem's generosity and selflessness have left an indelible mark on my life. His actions serve as a reminder that true friendship knows no bounds and that there is always someone out there who cares. Menachem is a shining example of the good in this world, and I am honored to call him my friend.

Menachem is a man who wears many hats: a loving husband, a devoted father of two, a hard worker, and a charitable giver. Despite his tough childhood, growing up without a father, Menachem has grown into a selfless and caring individual who puts his family and community first.

Menachem's compassion and generosity are evident in his charitable work. Despite not being the wealthiest man, he gives back to the community through donations and volunteering. Menachem believes that it is his duty to help those less fortunate than him, and he consistently finds ways to make a positive impact on the world around him.

One of Menachem's favorite ways to give back is by opening up his home to others. He is always willing to host friends and family for meals, welcoming them with open arms and a warm smile. His hospitality is unmatched, and he takes great pride in providing a comfortable and welcoming environment for his loved ones.

Menachem is such a caring person! He does everything he can to support his family and make sure they're doing well. He's always there for his kids and helps them out whenever they need it. Menachem is a great dad and helps his wife so much with them.

He's also really supportive of his wife. He listens to her and helps her out whenever she needs it. He knows that communication and respect are important for a strong marriage, and he tries to show that every day.

Menachem is an amazing example of how love and selflessness can make a difference in the world. Even when things are tough, he's always doing his best to help out his community and make a positive impact. He's a true inspiration and shows us that we can all make a difference in the world if we try.

I've spoken to Menachem about what he's done he feels terrible about it. Menachem didn't go there to protest or to vandalize anything he only went out of curiosity and to see what was happening there.

Ever since Menachem's arrest him and his family are ashamed to walk the streets of our community, Menachem does not attend the synagogue he used to anymore because of the rumors and pictures of his arrest all over the community. Menachem's wife was hiding in the house for weeks due to this situation and the tension between them became even greater.

On sundays when we want to take our kids together to an activity Menachem keeps saying he can't come with us because he cant cross the bridge to NJ, on Passover when we all went to FL for the holiday he had to do the holiday at home and now fly away like everyone else because he can't travel and cross state lines.

Menachem definitely understands the mistake he's done and deeply regret it. Menachem told me that he's worried that if he goes to prison this will end his marriage and break his family apart, hes scared that is wife will most likely take the children to Israel to live with her parents and will not bring them back to see him. I feel like this will cause two little innocent children to grow up without a father and will break a loving home apart.

It's devastating to see how much this one mistake has cost him and his loved ones.

05/21/23

Hon. Dabney L. Friedrich
United States District Judge
District of Columbia

Dear Judge Friedrich,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. My name is Chana Cohen. I am currently a college student here in New York City, and I am Menachem Cohen's little sister. I am grateful for the opportunity to express my thoughts on his behalf.

Being the youngest in our family of five kids with a single mother, Menachem, or as I call him "Mendy" has always been a big part of my life. I have known him since day one and I've always looked forward to our time together. He has always led with his heart and I have witnessed his growth and development into an exceptional individual.

When I was around 8 years old he took me and my sister on a "charity ride". We went to the bank to get money in bills and then drove around our community giving to those in need. I will never forget the way he highlighted and emphasized how important it is to not judge others and always do the right thing on our behalf. He encouraged kindness and love without limits to complete strangers. To think all my mother asked was for him to watch us for a little bit and this was what he decided to do with our time together, that's pretty special. This day has had such an impact and influence on who I am today. And it has everything to do with how this wasn't just a one-time thing. The very core of Mendy is a giver, he has a burning passion to give back and lend a helping hand. His whole life he's been generous with his company, time, money, and home.

My brother has been a pillar of support for our family and a guiding light for those around him. He has demonstrated an exceptional sense of responsibility and loyalty, always going above and beyond to help those in need. His dedication to his family, his friends, and his community is evident in his willingness to lend a helping hand and his genuine concern for others' well-being. Every Friday night he and his wife have their door open giving people an opportunity to have a home cooked meal and human conversation.

In terms of his future, Mendy has consistently exhibited a strong work ethic, perseverance, and a commitment to personal and professional growth. Doing everything in his power to provide for his wife and two baby boys. His accomplishments have earned him respect and recognition in his field, and he has proven himself to be a reliable

and valuable asset to his employers.

Furthermore, I would like to draw attention to my brother's genuine remorse and regret for his actions. He fully understands and has taken substantial steps toward personal growth and rehabilitation. I have seen his commitment to self-improvement and his determination to learn from past experiences, which speaks volumes about his character. I kindly request that you take into consideration the positive qualities, contributions, and potential for rehabilitation that my brother possesses when determining his sentence. I wholeheartedly believe that he has the capacity to make significant positive changes and continue to be a valuable member of society.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Chana Cohen

05/18/2023

The Honourable Dabney L. Friedrich
United States District Judge
District of Columbia

I am writing this letter with deep concerns for my son Menachem Cohen, his wife, and their two babies. Being a single mother to him and his siblings has been a challenging journey, filled with obstacles.

Menachem is my second child, and he faced struggles with speech development that eventually led to learning disabilities. However, with assistance from the school and his own determination, he Successfully overcame these challenges and ultimately graduated.

I saw it as my duty as a mother to instil strong moral values in my children. Even when they disagreed with my comments on their behaviour, I always reminded them that it was my responsibility, bestowed upon me by God, to teach them right from wrong, and I would be held accountable if I failed in that duty.

I took this task very seriously and taught my children to follow God's commandments, to show respect for themselves and others, to be kind and compassionate, to live with integrity, to be honest and humble, to strive tirelessly towards their goals, to never give up, to respect the law, to admit and rectify wrongdoing, to express gratitude, to keep their promises, to reject racism, violence, and judgmental attitudes. I firmly believe that being a good role model is the most effective way to influence others and create a better world.

However, I am aware that the path to achieving these ideals can sometimes be confusing, and we all need a reliable compass to guide us when we lose our way. When we make mistakes, it is crucial that we confront them, acknowledge our wrongdoing, and commit ourselves to doing better to avoid repeating those errors.

Menachem possesses a strong moral compass, and I genuinely know and believe that he regrets his actions on January 6. I am confident that he will not engage in any similar behaviour to what transpired on that day in 2021. Menachem has learned an important lesson, and, in my opinion, that is the most significant outcome.

Since the FBI agents approached Menachem, his life has undergone a drastic change. I can personally testify that over the past two years, he has been living with immense stress as a result of the consequences of his actions. Adding to his difficulties, Menachem also suffers from type 1 diabetes, a debilitating disease that affects both the body and the mind.

As his honourable judge calculates Menachem's sentence, I sincerely hope and pray that all of the aforementioned factors will be taken into consideration.

In 2020, Menachem married Hadar, and towards the end of the year, their son Shaked Aharon was born, bringing joy to everyone. Becoming a father has been the most transformative event in Menachem's life. He has devoted himself wholeheartedly to providing for his family's every need, be it financial, physical, mental, or emotional. Their second son, Shlomo Yehuda, was born in 2023.

Menachem is a dedicated family man. From the moment he wakes up in the morning, he tends to his son, taking care of him and accompanying him to his playgroup. When he returns from work, he actively participates in household tasks and puts his son to sleep, while Hadar attends to their newborn, who requires much attention.

The love, bond, and attachment between Menachem and his son Shaked Aharon, are the most profound I have ever witnessed between a father and his child. Menachem's commitment and dedication as a father have far surpassed my expectations. I am

truly impressed by his performance as both a husband and a father. It is clear that the responsibilities of fatherhood have greatly deepened Menachem's sense of responsibility and accountability. This is precisely why I have full confidence that regrettable events like those of January 6, 2021, will never be repeated.

Menachem is highly regarded in his community and among his peers as a reliable and pleasant individual, always ready to lend a helping hand to friends in need. Since the FBI agents arrived at his home and arrested him in front of his wife, child, and neighbours, I have received numerous calls from community members offering assistance and support. However, Menachem chose to handle most of it on his own, not wanting to burden others.

Dear Honourable Judge,

I humbly request that you grant my son Menachem, a chance to acknowledge his wrongdoing, express sincere regret, and offer a heartfelt apology. May he also commit to never repeating such actions in the future. I implore you to provide Menachem with an opportunity to demonstrate that he is a responsible and law-abiding citizen.

Thank you for considering my plea.

Respectfully,
Sabina R. Cohen
Mother and Grandmother

76 Clove Rd.
Brooklyn NY 11225
718-300-7995

Benjamin Yaster

From: Yosef H <yosy770@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 10:24 AM
To: Benjamin Yaster
Subject: Cohen Letter.

EXTERNAL SENDER

05/12/2023

Hon. Dabney L. Friedrich

United States District Judge

District of Columbia

Dear Your Honor:

My name is Yosef Hershkop. I run the local urgent care center in the neighborhood where Mr Cohen grew up and where he still lives. I was appointed to the local community board by the Brooklyn Borough President. I'm also involved in several community nonprofits. I have known Mr Cohen since approximately 2nd grade when we both attended the same elementary school and shared several mutual friends. I remember excitedly eating 'bagel and potato' sandwiches prepared by his mother which were a big hit at the school. His older brother was my older brother's classmate and close friend

During the two decades since we left elementary school I've continued to meet up with Mr Cohen through our shared social networks and from attending the same synagogues. I've always been impressed with how he turned his life around. This is someone who had every excuse to not pick himself up yet that's exactly what he did. I've seen first hand how he moved his way up from being a handyman /driver to a local real estate bigwig to being an actual adviser on big time deals and every time I've seen him in the synagogue on a weekday (we don't use money on the sabbath) there isn't a single time where I didn't see him handing out charity to the local homeless and others down on their luck I also saw how much he cared for more than one friend of his who unfortunately became dangerous drug users he understood their struggles and never mocked them and only gave them encouragement while working to get them proper treatment. He's also known to befriend and care for the Non English speaking yeshiva students who arrive in our neighborhood to learn in local schools. Many of them get really lost and he's known to be a big help to them.

Three years ago Mr Cohen got engaged and married. My dad was so impressed with how he'd worked on himself and didn't let his circumstances pull him down that he gifted him with a Rebbe Dollar, a gift that people usually will not give to non immediate family members. I routinely see Mr Cohen in the local supermarkets, he's always checking in with his wife if there's anything last minute they need for Sabbath. He works hard to support her in a respectful way. On another occasion I saw him running around carrying a large box. When I asked him what was in the box he said "I just bought this cheesecake from my wife's friend's small home business as a sign of support", that's exactly the kind of person Mr Cohen is always seeking to support the small people. When someone is arrested especially by federal authorities its big news in the Hasidic community we are both members of, there's no way to keep that kind of news quiet its an extremely embarrassing situation and although many people will step up to the plate with offers

of support there's no getting around that it's a stain on you and I've seen how uncomfortable it's been for Mr Cohen since the news broke. You can see how people stare at him and whisper about him, regardless of the outcome of this case; he'll never be able to erase the tweets and news articles which tie him in an extremely negative manner to one of the most shocking dates in American history. The anxiety and emotional duress Mr Cohen has lived with the past two and half years knowing that at any minute he could be arrested is punishment enough, there's no question that not only would he never participate in such an activity again he'd think ten times before participating even in completely legal protest like activities. He's learned a very rough lesson in what it means to stay out of trouble.

Mr Cohen takes his debt to society very seriously and I have had conversations with him about various volunteering opportunities he will sign up for to give back to the community. Volunteering for the community isn't a new concept to him.

BS"D

May 18, 2023

**Hon. Dabney L. Friedrich
United States Court Judge
District of Columbia**

Dear Your Honor,

My name is Deirdre Kane. I am a teacher, writer and nutrition coach.

I have known Menachem Cohen for over ten years. I am a friend of his mother Ruthy who raised Mendy and his siblings alone. Life was not easy, but amidst that struggle, Menachem always brought light and laughter everywhere he goes. Over the course of time, I have gotten to know Menachem closely in many different situations. We have celebrated many Sabbath and holiday meals together with his family.

Prior to his marriage, he was the main emotional support for his family. By nature he is sweet, loving, friendly and gifted with a great sense of humor. He brings a lot of joy to everyone who knows him. He is very close with all of his family members and helps them in every way that he can.

His wedding a few years ago brought tremendous happiness and blessing. He married a very beautiful, graceful and kind woman, Hadar Cohen, who was also my friend prior to their marriage. Together, they have built a warm and beautiful home that is now the stomping ground of their two sons. Menachem is a constant support and caretaker for his wife and children. He is a hands-on - father as well as the sole bread-winner of his family.

Together, Menachem and Hadar do a lot of kindness and outreach in the community. They often host large numbers of students for Sabbath and holiday meals and gatherings. They help to support Torah institutions and teachers, and are the heartbeat of their extended families who often come to visit.

In short, they have managed to build an infrastructure of kindness and caring within their family and in the community. The legal issues Menachem is dealing with were quite a shock to his wife and family. Hadar was pregnant with their second child, and was visibly shaken. She has maintained unflinching support and love for her husband, but it has not been easy to care for her energetic toddler, Shaked Aharon, while undergoing her pregnancy amidst Menachem's challenges.

Since their baby was born, Hadar's hands are full and she relies entirely on Menachem to help her with the babies and to support the family.

Although Menachem is very intelligent, his warm heartedness can sometimes bring out impulsivity. During this time period of his pre-trial release, he has become much more careful and thoughtful in his decision-making

process. There is not a doubt that he is able to see the consequences of his actions. Having his second son in the midst of this, has grounded him and made him very aware of how much depends on him. He has matured greatly and is less impulsive. On top of that, he has every external reason and blessing to build a positive and constructive future for himself and his family.

Menachem's intelligence, faith and skill in business will serve him well and he will continue to light up the lives of his family, his community and the world.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Kane

2027

The Honorable Dabney L. Friedrich
United States District Judge
District of Columbia

Your Honor:

I am writing this letter to you to express my support for Menachem Cohen, who will be sentenced soon.

I know Mr. Menachem Cohen for many years. He is a friend and neighbor in the community, and I am close friends with members of his family.

I know him to be honest, and never in any way involved in any action that could be deemed radical or violent.

Mr. Cohen has always been an outstanding member of our community. He is a dedicated father, husband, and a hard-worker who is respected by his peers. I have witnessed firsthand his kindness and generosity towards his family, myself, and others. He is always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need, and his contributions to our community are immeasurable. I firmly believe that he is not a bad person, and he deserves a second chance. I know that he has already learned from his mistake and is taking the necessary steps to make things right. I am confident that he will continue to make positive changes in his life and contribute to our community in meaningful ways.

I believe that Mr. Cohen has learned from his mistakes and does not need to be imprisoned to be deterred from violating the law again.

I respectfully urge Your Honor to exercise the utmost leniency possible in Mr. Cohen's sentencing, recognizing in his joining the January 6, 2021 actions, his peaceful exercise of constitutional rights and his non-threatening nature, and if necessary, to consider a symbolic rather than punitive sentence.

Thank you for considering this letter and for your attention to this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,
Rafael V. Rabinovich
672 Empire Boulevard, #8B
Brooklyn NY 11213
(718) 514 4328

Benjamin Yaster

From: Rabbi Z. Wineberg <hashemechad@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2023 1:27 PM
To: Benjamin Yaster
Subject: Letter

EXTERNAL SENDER

Hon. Dabney L. Friedrich
United States District Judge
District of Columbia

Dear Your Honor:

My name is Rabbi Zevi Wineberg.

I am a Chabad Rabbi involved in communal work for the past two decades.

I met Mr. Cohen while I was in New York and was immediately impressed by his dedication.

We both come from Jewish roots, and furthermore having had a similar life experience, namely growing up religious and having left our faith and personally seeking truth, and discovering the blessing of Divine blessing, and a passion for ethics, charity, and compassion - we formed a bond.

Menachem is from the most – if not the most – unique human beings I have even met (and as community leader I have personally met over 30,000 people, and have had tens of thousand read my books, hear my radio shows, and millions have seen some Televised interviews and read my blog.)

Menachem is the person who not only brings light to every situation and person, but furthermore is a model of a person whose life, single-handedly instead of being involved in meaningless self-gratification, turned into a pillar of support, Chesed (kindness.)

In addition I was doubly impressed when Menachem personally took the step – as unfortunately many young people today fail to – of getting married, fathering children.

Though times are very tough - Menachem honestly and with tremendous “sweat of your brow,” provided for his family, always cognizant of sponsoring, and supporting ethical, moral causes, and people in need.

On a personal note your honor, I am sure you will agree nothing good (and terrible familial destruction – perhaps that will lead to generational trauma) can come from Menachem God-forbid being incarcerated.

His doubly amazing wife, will be left literally without support, his two children without a loving and supporting father - as you know, once branded as a criminal, all prospects for future employment and the ability to care for his family are almost eradicated.

Furthermore knowing Menachem’s inquisitive nature and knowing him very well I can tell you he has no political leanings – he is not in any way a radical. He suffers but for a deep love for people, and a great curiosity to see all sides of the equation – I attest his only sin, is stupid curiosity.

In conclusion may God grant you the ability to put yourself in Menachem’s shoes and ask yourself if you would like for a judge to sentence your family to continual privation, continued shame, continued generational trauma, or a life in which a provider who deeply regrets – as I have personally spoken to him to not engage in such foolishness ever again – will learn from the past, and increase his goodness, kindness, and focus on family, and what matters most in the future.

May God bestow upon you many blessing for the important work in ensuring that while we must all follow the law, the intent of the law – safety – will in no way be harmed, and in fact benefit, by a magnanimous sentencing.

Sincerely,

Zevi

By Finding The Good In The Bad, We Transform The Bad To Good - The Baal Shem Tov

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