

June 13, 2017

The Honorable P. Kevin Castel  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York  
Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
United States Courthouse  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, New York 10007

Your Honor:

I am writing to you on behalf of my friend, Bill Walters. We have been friends for the last forty years. During that time, as our friendship developed, I came to know a lot about Bill—much more than most. I would like to try and provide some insight into Bill's personality, how I came to know him, his childhood, and his current situation.

My goal is to provide you with some personal information in the hope that you will see and understand that Bill is the product of his upbringing and environment. At heart, there is no finer person—no individual more willing to lend a hand to those in need—than Billy Walters. We have been close friends ever since our initial meeting.

My family was in the gambling business for many years. I grew up working at our family's casino on Fremont Street. In the early seventies, Bill Walters was a frequent customer. We developed a friendship at that time, and through many conversations, I learned a lot about him.

Bill had a very rough childhood. His only consistent influence was his grandmother. Unfortunately, she died when he was just a young kid. He once told me that he was so distraught when his grandmother passed away that at the funeral he actually tried to jump in the open hole to "join" her. Bill's childhood was plagued with instability and I believe that it seriously impacted who he became as an adult, his personality, and his overall desire for stability.

You can read about how Bill successfully entered and dominated the sports betting industry. His drive and his desire to succeed were unmatched. As a product of Bill's quick and decisive decision-making, he has both won and lost big over the years. I believe the general public misperceives this as recklessness, but nothing is further from the truth. This was just how Billy approached everything, with an eye toward a particular goal, never feeling completely secure or successful.

Unfortunately, adversity followed Billy. Bill's second wife gave birth to a beautiful boy, in whom Bill took great pride and delight. At age seven, his son was diagnosed with a serious brain tumor. The resulting surgery left him severely mentally disabled. Despite

the severity of the disability, Bill re-focused his energy on Opportunity Village, a terrific organization that provides assistance to the developmentally disabled. Billy has raised and contributed millions of dollars toward this wonderful cause.

Now, let's move to the less public side of Bill Walters. I can't think of anyone who worked harder quietly behind the scenes to help those in need. Families with financial hardship, disabled children, and single mothers—Billy helped them all. Always unsolicited, and never with strings attached, Bill was a godsend to many. This is the unspoken truth about Billy Walters.

Bill and Susan were churchgoers and maintained close relationships with the pastors at two churches. One of the pastor's names was Robert Tremaine and he had a congregation outside of Los Angeles. I know that Billy quietly contributed money to fund full scholarships for underprivileged students and he even purchased a mobile home for a single mother who fell on hard times. I remember the motor home purchase because Billy didn't tell me he was helping someone out. Rather, he bragged to me about how well he negotiated the purchase.

Billy Walters is one-of-a-kind. I can't attest to his motivation—whether it was a response to the hardship he experienced as a child, or his genuine desire to help others. I only can say with certainty that his actions speak louder than all those who rush to judgment.

Bill is the product of his background, the hardships of his past, and his own personal suffering. I can say candidly that he has good heart, has helped many people both publicly and privately, and will always be my close personal friend. I hope that he will be able to continue to make a positive impact on the community through his generosity/philanthropy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Binion".

Jack B. Binion