

**ZEDIKER
& ASSOCIATES, P.A. ***

Garrett T. Zediker, Esq.

Office (305) 269-4600; Facsimile (305) 381-0215

Mailing Address: 2520 Coral Way, Suite 2-402, Miami Florida 33145
Miami Dade Office: 2151 S. Lejuene Road, Suite # 305, Coral Gables FL 33134
Broward Office: 1250 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

May 9, 2021

Dear Honorable Judge Cooke,

It is my honor and pleasure to offer my support to the court in evaluating the character of David Tyler Hines.

I met the Lewis-Hines family in the year 2000. We lived in the same community and they attended my church, Christ Journey formerly, University Baptist located here in Miami. I knew David as "Tyler", we called him Ty. He was primarily raised by his mother Jennifer Lewis. Jennifer was a struggling single mom, doing her best to take care of Ty here in Miami without much support from anyone during those years. I used to observe that Tyler although very very young was his mother's protector. I found Tyler to be really great young boy. Eventually he had numerous play dates with my daughter who was the same age. I had the opportunity on occasion to do various activities with Tyler, those days were the highlight of my weekly routine. We would skateboard or grab a pizza. It was an inspiration to get a glimpse of happiness in Tyler as he would experience and master various activities.

I was a Miami Dade Public Defender back in those days. On many occasions I took Tyler to work with me. He got to sit in the galley and observe all the proceedings. He was very well received by my colleagues and all the Judges where he attended court with me. He would have many questions and verbalized all kinds of ideas about his world and life during the times we spent together. My heart hurt for this young boy. He had a strong commitment to his mom and family. As my mentioned he was his mother's protector in his mind from a very young age. I could sense that he missed his father and there may have been some pain building at a young age. I was pleased to learn that eventually Tyler was able to really reconnect with his Dad and spend much more time with him. Tyler demonstrated great potential with his discipline, intellect and drive. he became a self-made business man at a young age. I observed things took a turn for the worst with Tyler when his father became what would prove to be terminally ill.

It seemed this brought back burdens that the young Tyler used to carry. I am no psychologist just seemed that Ty placed great emphasis on keeping his loved ones stable, secure and safe. This seemed to cause his whole world to crash start crashing like a domino effect.

I observed some very strong and admirable traits of Tyler's character as a grown man. First, nobody helped him climb and become a young successful entrepreneur and businessman. Tyler was one of those rare success stories. As a human any of us are subject to error. However, I have learned that most adults do not accept their bad decisions and consequences that may follow. David Tyler Hines has affirmatively stepped forward to own and accept his bad decisions that lead him to this point. The sheer

strength, resolve, repentance that he has demonstrated during this time to claim 100% responsibility for his actions demonstrates to me the strength of character that I have rarely seen in my years on earth. This young man will eventually become a productive member of society again and become an inspiration to others. I am astounded by his strength during this time and his resolve to make good for his family and himself.

I am very proud and inspired that Tyler has married and stepped in to help parent his wife's son. He supports his loving wife and their son that they are raising together. It is young men like Tyler that step into the fold for others so that they do not have to endure some of the challenges and pain that Ty overcame in his young life. Again, Tyler places great value on family and providing stability to his loved ones. He was his mom's protector and now he has stepped into the role of Father, something that Tyler greatly values also his love for his own Dad. I believe he is turning the pain of losing his dad to soon, into strength and love for those that need it, those that are similarly situated to where he once was himself. Tyler had finally reached a point in his adult life where he had achieved the joy of having his whole family readily present and substantively involved in his life. Those that have been deprived of having trusted family members in their life readily understand what a life changing blessing it is to be with their family on a consistent regular basis. My young friend seemed to implode and damaged his own life that he worked so hard to create. Tyler defied the odds to achieve the level of success that he strived to to achieve despite starting with next to nothing. The inspirations and motivations that propelled him to exceptional levels in business at a very young age have always been his family. He adores his aunt Lisa and his uncle Ed and their children. I have had occasions to observe Tyler interact with his youngest cousins at church. He used to play with my daughter as well. Unfortunately, the pain and mental trauma appeared to finally catch up to him and took him down.

Tyler owns his mistakes, failure and his downfall but he does it like a young man that is determined to 'make good' on his love, abilities, aspirations and commitment to his small remaining family, friends and community. I know he will replace and give back to his community what he may have costs with irrational decisions that are not consistent with this young man's true character. As a lawyer, practitioner and small business owner neither myself nor others take Tyler's actions the least bit lightly. Tyler too realizes these were bad decisions. I must comment again on the observations regarding Tyler's discipline and sheer manhood to focus willingly on the consequences he faces without the least bit of pity for himself, excuse himself or pleas to justify his actions. The fact that he so accepts and faces this difficult time evidences strength of good character. He is eager to regain trust and to give back. Personally, I believe in him whole heartedly. I watched Tyler's life from near and far at different times throughout the last 20 plus years.

He will return to being a loving, devoted husband and father, nephew, son and friend to many. While Tyler overcame odds for others it is people such as myself that should have stepped in and done more because that is what you do for people you care about. I believe many including myself simply did nothing to be more supportive of Tyler and arguably some warning signs about this young man's mental state because Ty was forced to become strong at a very young age, and could manage the loss of his father. That was an assumption that over looked the basic emotional needs of this young man. That is why I want to be a part of shedding as much light onto the totality of who this young man is for the evaluation of the best resolution of these crimes. If David Tyler Hines were my son then I would be, both now and always a proud father. Tyler and his remaining family while few and far between are some of the best people I know.

I want to thank this Honorable Court for taking the time to consider these words and those from other people in support of Ty. We hope this information will resonate with the thoughtful mind of the Court to assist in a thorough evaluation of this young father, son, husband and friend.

Best Regards,

GARRETT T. ZEDIKER, ESQ.