

To Whom it may concern:

Thank you for taking the time to look at Ian's case for us, even past the date of Hardship acceptance. I would like to start with a little background and timeline that pertains to the issues we hope to resolve with Ian attending Westview High School. Westview is within walking distance to our house, however, it is out of the district. If necessary, Ian will be moving in with my sister for the school years as we all have agreed, it's just that important for the happiness and success of my son. Living with his aunt is the first hardship we share with you, as I'm sure you can agree, it's always best to be home.

Ian has been in the same district and has grown up and gone to school with the same group of kids since the first grade, therefore they all were very close, up until Ian met Savannah. He dated her for a short period of time, and his group of friends completely turned on him when one of the others liked her too. It went back and forth for a while with them ultimately breaking up and one of his friends ended up with her. Unfortunately, this was Ian's first love which he confided with me several times asking advice etc. Once their relationship was over the serious bullying began.

I knew he was becoming depressed as he would just sit in his room and not socialize with friends anymore. It was brought to my attention that a photo was put up on twitter, by his once best friend, that someone needed to "clean up the trash" around town. This hurt him so badly, that I asked his old friend and his parents over for a visit. It was so painful to see my son being hurt, and also feeling lonely. He confided in me that at football practice that one of his friends' brother (Austin Mason) was harassing him on the field. This is the older brother of the boy who now dates Savannah. He would taunt him, calling him a fuck boy, a pussy and to watch his ass. Ian said all the upperclassmen talked that way, some even threatening sexual assault. That is when I found the pages on the internet of them harassing Ian, and even planning on Hazing my son. It was then I went to Coach Malhum and initiated a meeting with the coaching staff and some of Ian's teachers. This was hardest on Ian, he felt embarrassed and humiliated in front of his coaches and then the entire football program. Ian insisted on not filing an investigation as it would just make everything worse. To be honest, I just wanted him to be ok, and I agreed that one would not be needed. Austin Mason came to our house and apologized after the meeting...And still, once school started I noticed Ian would wait, until very late to start walking to school, so as they wouldn't harass him on the way to school. I would get up at night and find Ian in the bathroom throwing up. He would just say his stomach was upset, but I found him in there up to 3 nights a week. Ian's anxiety began to take a physical toll on his body, he began to lose weight. Of course I took him to the doctor and he just kept losing. Finally Ian began hallucinating. He could not sleep at all and had to come to me with the truth. His anxiety was preventing him from falling asleep, preventing him from eating etc. He told me he was so lonely and would rather die than have to go back to that school.

Immediately, we got Ian help. We first got him on sleeping meds. Lack of sleep was causing the hallucinating. Ian had several constructive appointments with Dr. Shader that helped him focus on stress relief. Although I know a letter from her would be beneficial, her appointments are not cheap and I cannot afford to get one. I did however provide a statement showing several of Ian's appointments with her. Ian also began seeing a nutritionist and Ian's Avid teacher proved to be a help to Ian during those times, even coming to our house to comfort Ian during a trying time. Ian started a program at the gym and has spent every free moment in the gym, by himself, working on making himself stronger and more self-confidant. Ian wants and deserves a fresh start. He still suffers extreme anxiety at the thought of anything to do with football there. He has been shunned, abused and hurt there

I have submitted copies of correspondence with Liberty Coach Malhum, Internet pages I found proving the threat of Hazing, and telling my son to kill himself, and also the psychiatrist statement to show some of the appointments he had. I humbly ask that you allow my son to attend your school, and participate in your sports programs so that he can go back to the young, confidant, positive and compassionate young man he has always been. Please...he deserves it.

Sincerely,

Janine Shaner

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine D. Shaner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Janine" on the first line and "D. Shaner" on the second line.

For JAMES
3-12-15

Thank you for taking the time
to look at my application. There were
many issues/problems at my old school.
It started the summer before my freshman
year and the way till now. I was hoping that
it would go away but it is still happening
even after everything. Now I finally have
a chance to leave and have a fresh start.

During our summer football camp going into
my freshman year, I was one of the standout
kids. Because of this the older kids would always
mess with me and call me names. They would shout
at me when coaches weren't around. Calling me "Pussy"
or "Faggot" but the worse part is that they
would throw me on the ground or hit me in
back when I wasn't looking. I told my mom
about it so she brought it to the coach but
that didn't stop the problem. One of the kids
got kicked out of being a leader so he was
mad at me, then it progressed. The stuff on the
field turned into them harassing me in the
locker room, which I don't like talking about
but a couple of them would be naked and
come into our locker room and haze me. Since
I was 1 of only 2 sophomores swinging up to varsity
I was at my gf a lot of the time.

That was my sophomore year and it was
still happening and I didn't do anything to
them at all. They told me I wouldn't be on
varsity. So recently I took up working out
at the gym because I rather do it on my

own then at the school around this.
It got so bad at a point that I wouldn't
eat and I lost 15 pounds, I would just
stay in my room all day, I realized I
was depressed because I laid in bed at
night but couldn't sleep for hours, my
mom took me to a psychologist that
prescribed me medication to help me sleep.
I am out of that now and don't want
to go back to feeling like that, I'm
happy that I can have a Fresh Start
and make new friends, I have worked hard
and been through a lot to finally be
able to get where I am.

Sincerely,

Sean Jones