

November 7th, 2020 was a day I will never forget. This was not the first time in my life that I encountered hatred on the basis of my religion and cultural background as a Jew. It was, however, the first time I encountered such hatred as a husband, a homeowner, and as the head of a family. That evening began innocently enough—my wife and I had two friends who recently moved to the United States from New Zealand staying with us and another couple over for dinner. In total there were 6 of us—5 being Jews and 2 being foreigners to the America.

I won't get into the details of the events that transpired that night as I believe that has been recounted many times, and Doug has already pled guilty to his offenses against Tiffany, our guests that evening, my father, and me. What I do want to talk about is the outpouring of anecdotal stories of similar offenses Doug has levied at our neighbors and others living in the Old Town East neighborhood and why I have come to view our neighbor Doug as a tyrant.

When I look at our neighborhood and our surrounding community, I see diversity, cooperation, love, and support. I do not have to walk far from our home at 761 Franklin Avenue to run into someone I know. Tiffany and I have made real relationships with our neighbors. We get a knock at the door if a package has been delivered that we might have missed. We get letters and care packages from our neighbors in support of the hate crime we experienced. We get congratulatory letters and notes for the arrival of our newborn son, Isaac. This is a community that cares for one another and is genuinely good and kind. It is one of the reasons my wife and I chose to move here.

When we first moved to the neighborhood, I knew immediately what I might expect from Doug. I saw that he was troubled from our very first interaction. I thought if we kept him at arm's length and made a good faith effort to be kind and neighborly that that would be enough to steer clear of any altercations. Out of an abundance of caution, I asked one of my neighbors whom I had gotten to know from conversations at the local coffee shop and our weekly community bike rides about the "guy next door." He told me that, although Doug was a "racist and an asshole," he could be a good neighbor and that he was, for the most part, harmless. I tried my best to believe that and made a good effort to endear ourselves to Doug. That illusion has since been shattered beyond all repair. Doug is a dangerous man, and I do not believe he is repentant for his actions in the slightest. He is a liar and a deeply troubled individual who needs real and meaningful rehabilitation.

In the months since our altercation, I have been approached by a few of Doug's tenants while out in the neighborhood on dog walks or in my front yard doing yard work. The stories of Doug's victims are all the same. All of the people who have approached Tiffany and I have been black women who rent housing from Doug. They recount Doug referring to Tiffany and me as his "Holocaust whining neighbors" with a "unruly dog who needs to be put down." They tell stories of Doug entering their homes unannounced and shouting slurs at their children that their "black asses don't live here anymore." They recount verbal altercations where Doug says to their faces that he "doesn't like coons but their money spends just the same." We have heard horror stories from our neighbors about Doug pulling guns on them and repeatedly taunting them through their shared fence shouting "here n*****, n*****." I have heard stories from the previous owner of our

home who detailed an altercation about use of the trash cans in the alley which ultimately resulted in Doug shooting a gun at our garage—the bullet hole in the window and the drywall is still visible to this day. There are similar stories from our neighbors across the street who have had car windows shattered or shot out.

Since being victimized by Doug on November 7, 2020, we have had multiple other neighbors stop by and let us know that they love and support us, and that they respect and appreciate our standing up to Doug and demanding he pay for his actions. Furthermore, they have shared that they know who Doug is, are aware of his attitudes towards minorities, and that he is indeed potentially dangerous. Our neighbors have shared that they “have our back,” and leave us with their phone numbers should we ever have a similar interaction with Doug. They often point to their homes saying, “we are just down the street,” or “I live just over here if anything like this happens again,” and “we’re watching y’all.” All of this leads me to believe that Doug has been terrorizing this community and neighborhood for years. Word travels fast in Old Towne East and everyone seems to be aware of the danger Doug presents, and that he is especially unpredictable when he is drinking.

All of this is to say, I do not feel safe for my family to live in this neighborhood with Doug as a neighbor. Since this altercation, I have procured a weapon for the first time in my life. With a newborn son and a growing family, Tiffany and I will not remain in our home should Doug continue to be our neighbor. Despite any promise of rehabilitation or second chances from Doug or his legal counsel, I have zero faith in Doug changing and realizing the error of his ways. Sure he may regret his actions, but the hatred he has in his heart for people who are not like him clearly runs very deep. Doug continues to engage in surface level attempts to make the appearance that he is a changed man, including the “for rent” sign he posted in his yard for three days many months ago. Despite this, I still see Doug from time to time coming and going from his home and garage. He has never apologized, and I have him on video promising that he never would in his fit of rage from our November 7th interaction. I believe Doug has lived his entire life skirting the consequences of his actions through a combination of smooth talking, his good old boy attitude, and empty promises that he will change. He has yet to be held accountable for his violent offenses against our neighbors or the verbal abuse of his tenants. Doug deserves no less than the full penalty of his actions and my family and my community will not feel justice has been served until he has left our neighborhood for good. Any punishment which would allow Doug to remain in this neighborhood as a neighbor to Tiffany, our son Isaac, and me is an immediate threat to my family and our community as a whole and will be a gross injustice to the Old Town East community. I urge the court to not be fooled by any of Doug’s framing of this incident as an accident or as a drunken tirade. I believe Doug showed us who he really is that night and I am certain he is capable of far worse.

Thank you,

/s/ Nicholas Kinney

September 10, 2021