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Dear members of the Board of Selectmen for the town of Pepperell:

My name is Jillian Kavanagh. I have had the pleasure of knowing Meghan Bourque Tyler and Ryan Tyler for a significant amount of my life. Over the years, Meghan and Ryan have become dear friends of myself and my husband Conor. Given the recent shocking accusations made against them, I would like to shed some light into the type of people Meghan and Ryan are, as well as correct some fallacies made about their two dogs, Simba and Brady.

Meghan and I met through our love of horses, nearly 15 years ago. She stuck by my side through breakups, relocations and normal young adult learning experiences. After deciding to move back to Massachusetts from Florida, I made the decision to move my beloved mare, Chloe to Meghan's barn, A Touch of Majic Equestrian Center. As I loaded my pride and joy into the gigantic trailer, I knew that Chloe would be in the best possible hands. What I didn't realize was the extent to how much Chloe would be cared for. Chloe was loved as one of Meghan, and later Ryan's own. Horses were happy in their care. When Chloe fell ill, it was Meghan who stood by me as Chloe passed. Ryan drove Chloe's body over an hour away so she could be cremated. They did this out of love and respect for not just Chloe, but for myself and my family.

Unfortunately, the horse community is not always a pleasant one. It is inhabited by a regrettable number of ill-natured individuals who thrive on unnecessary drama. Meghan and Ryan chose to stay in the horse business out of their connections to their horses as well as their deep desire to teach. Although it does not surprise me to hear of occasional bad blood in the community, the accusations made against Meghan and Ryan are unfathomable. I can say with certainty that I have never witnessed anything other than the utmost professionalism by the two of them. I would like to note that after reading the article published in the *Lowell Sun*, I was absolutely outraged. Not only was it grossly inaccurate but incredibly biased. It even included a quote by one of Meghan and Ryan's former boarders. She remains close friends with other former boarders, all of whom have been excused from the barn due to their own bad behavior. The quote was heavily biased and does not accurately represent the situation at hand.

In my years of knowing Meghan and Ryan's dogs, I have never once witnessed any kind of aggressive behavior. A Touch of Majic Equestrian Center is a busy lesson barn full of young students, boarders, and equine professionals. People are in and out of the barn frequently and the dogs have never demonstrated anything other than docile and overall friendly behavior. They coexist with horses without an issue as well. I recall a day when I brought my then 2-year-old daughter to the barn and both Simba and Brady, as well as Sadie, were all in the barn. I felt completely comfortable with Elle being around each of the dogs. They all took turns giving her gentle licks on her cheek and were incredibly well behaved, despite not knowing her well prior to this interaction. I know that the dogs to be exceptionally well behaved around Meghan and Ryan's young son Colton as well.

As a medical professional, I have seen firsthand the amount of damage that can be caused by

dog attacks during my time in trauma. It is something that has stuck with me whenever I or my family are around any dogs, and it is not something I take lightly.

The accusations made against the Bourque-Tyler dogs appear to have come to existence out of someone's vendetta against them. I would advise you to take into consideration the nature of the horse community before giving those who accuse Meghan and Ryan any credence. I would be happy to speak on the behalf of both Meghan and Ryan upon request.

Thank you for your time,
Jillian Kavanagh