



# THE BULL

MAFIA UNDERBOSS



# SALVATORE GRAVANO

## "SAMMY THE BULL"

Known by most as "Sammy The Bull", Salvatore Gravano was born on March 12th, 1945 in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, a predominantly Italian-American neighborhood. Gravano fell into crime at an early age. After his bike was stolen around the age of ten, a group of mobsters watched and remarked how little Sammy fought "like a bull" while taking on several larger kids at once, earning him the nickname "The Bull". Despite his father's attempts to dissuade him, Gravano drifted into the mafia.

In 1970, Sammy The Bull made his first kill for the Colombo family. After a conflict within the family, he was moved to the Gambinos to join Salvatore "Todd" Aurello's crew. He became heavily involved in the construction industry and became a successful earner. In 1985, he was involved in the corporate takeover and removal of Paul Castellano, the "boss of bosses." John Gotti was unanimously elected as boss who named DeCicco as underboss and Gravano as captain. After DeCicco's death in 1986, Gravano eventually was named by Gotti as underboss.

After a major indictment targeting the powerful Gambino family heads, Gravano pleaded guilty to a superseding racketeering charge. After 11 months alongside Gotti in prison and a total of 23 years in the mob, he decided to cooperate, formally agreeing to testify on November 13th, 1991. He was released from prison in 1994 and entered into the Federal Witness Protection Program. In 1996, Gravano co-wrote a book about his life, Underboss. He began living very openly and appeared in a nationally televised interview with journalist Diane Sawyer.

In 2000, Gravano was implicated in an international ecstasy ring. On September 7, 2002, he was sentenced in New York to 20 years on the federal charges. He was released early, in September of 2017. Currently, Gravano resides in Phoenix and continues to speak freely about his life in organized crime.

# THE UNDERBOSS

## GAMBINO CRIME FAMILY



Singled out by Paul Castellano as one of the only family members who was both a thug and a racketeer, a rare combination within organized crime, Sammy began to make a name for himself on the streets of NYC.



After climbing through the rankings, serving loyally as soldier, captain and capo, Gravano was finally named Underboss by Gotti in 1986 after a carbomb killed Frankie DeCicco.



Known as an expert hitman and strategist, Sammy "The Bull" was responsible for two of the most famous hits in Mafia history, Paul Castellano & Johnny Keys Simone, among 17 others.



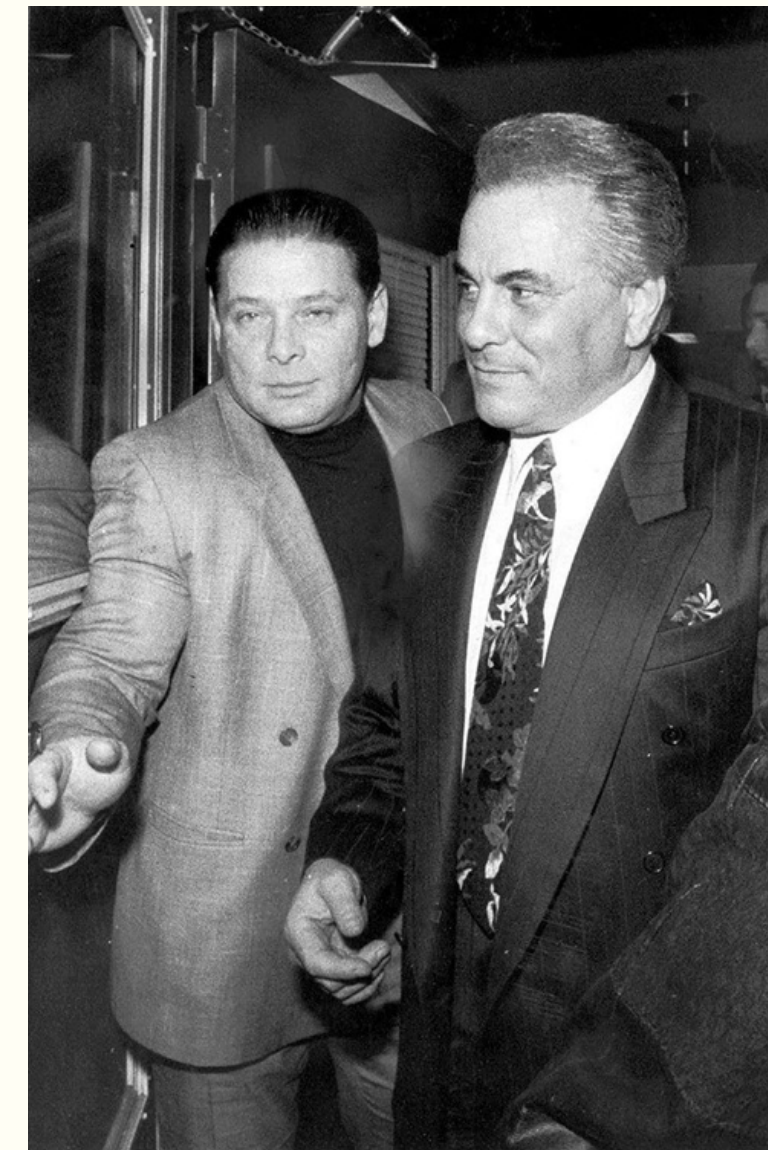
A business and family man specializing in construction and union deals, Sammy instructed his crew stayed away from drug deals and high-risk endeavors. At night, he went home to his wife Debbie, and children, Karen and Gerard.

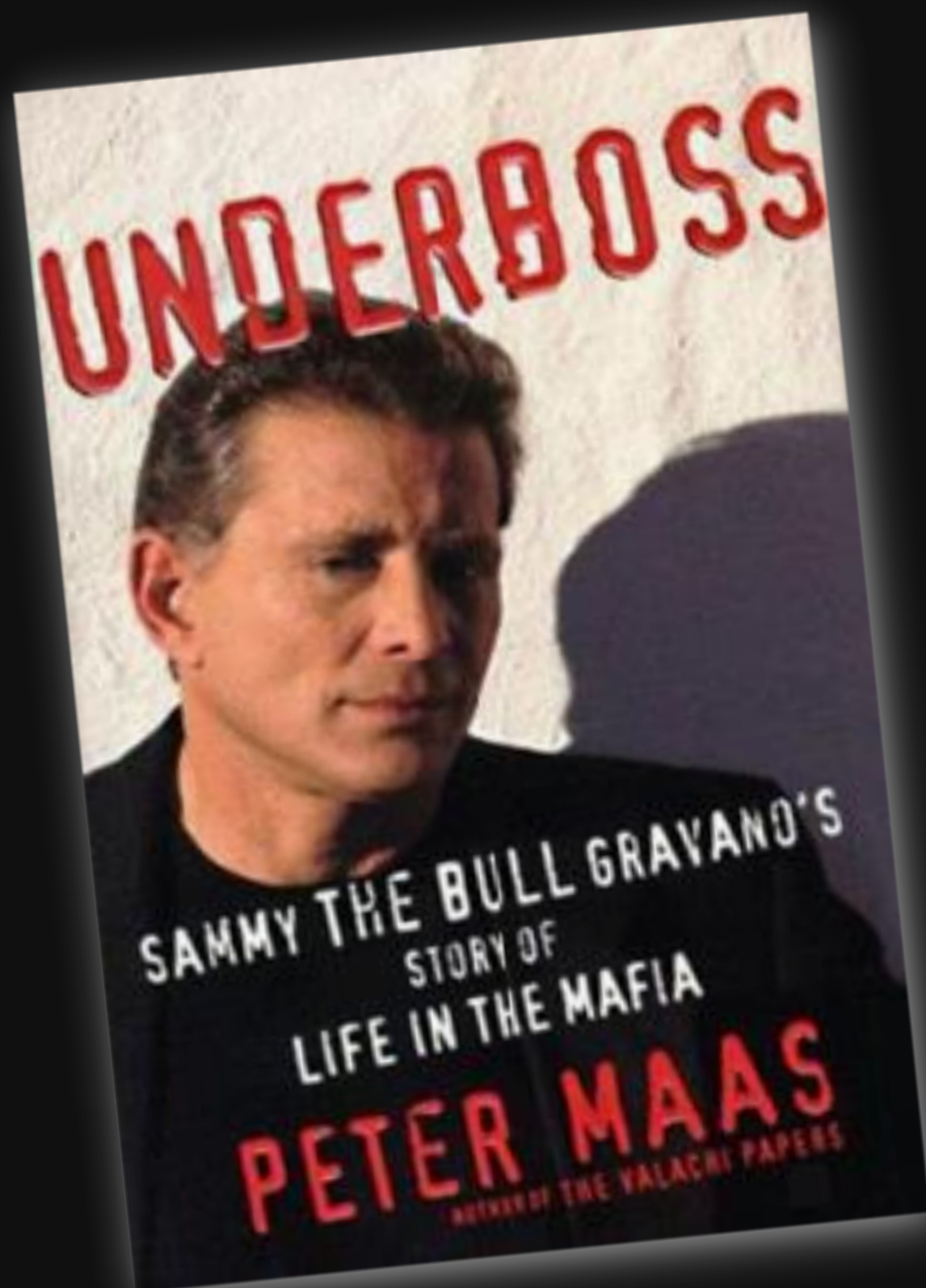


When John Gotti, whose fame attracted unprecedented media and FBI attention, was indicted multiple times, Sammy fixed trials, threatened jurors and helped Gotti get the nickname "The Teflon Don".



Indicted on compounding charges and facing life in prison, Gravano heard tapes of Gotti making him the scapegoat. This betrayal ultimately led Gravano to cooperate, resulting in the historical conviction of Gotti and many others.





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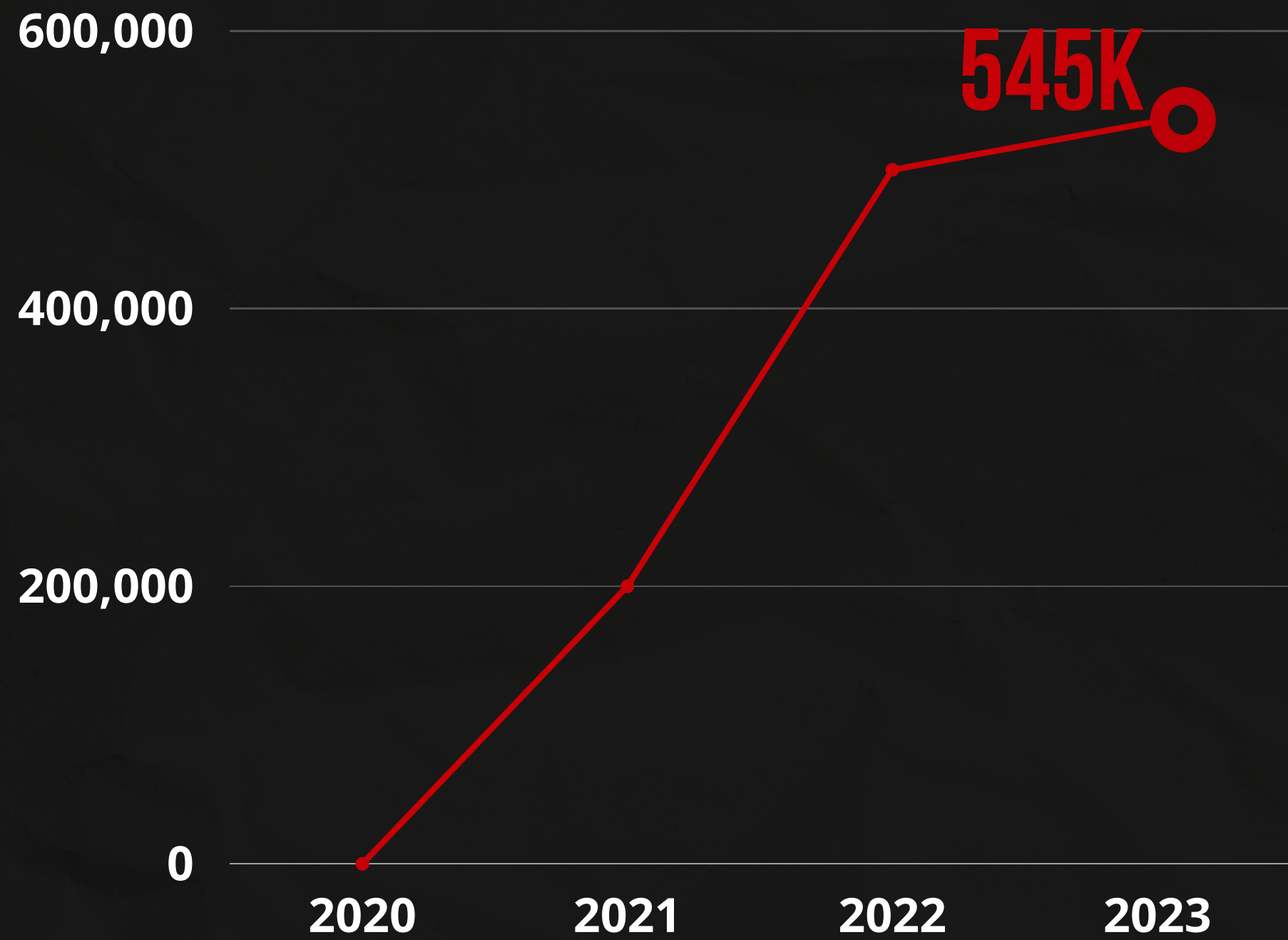
# "THE DON OF SOCIAL MEDIA"

"Notorious underworld figure reflects on life of crime in his new podcast 'Our Thing'"  
- **Fox News**

"His Brooklyn accent remains unchanged a full 28 years after he moved west, and he still carries the baggage of his violent rise through the ranks of the Gambinos under Gotti." - **Daily News**

"Sammy the Bull has an unbelievable memory, and can recall names, and facts about the different parts of his life..." - **The Yonkers Times**





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In his debut show "Our Thing", Sammy shares stories of an underworld rarely seen or spoken about, aside from over-dramatized Hollywood movies, Sammy has taken social media by storm with his honest, moving and unbelievable recounting of his life in the streets, time spent in prison and memories sharing cigars and coffee with some of histories most memorable mafiosos.





# THE NEW YORKER

CULTURE DESK

## WHY THE F.B.I. LOVES MOB PODCASTS

A slew of true-crime content hosted by former members of the Mafia has attracted a surprising set of devotees: law-enforcement agents, looking for a deeper understanding of some of the biggest cases of their careers.

By Rachel Corbett  
October 23, 2021



Salvatore (Sammy the Bull) Gravano, who was a hit man for the Gambino crime family, now hosts a podcast called "Our Thing." Photograph by New York Daily News / Getty

To join the Mafia, one must take an oath of *omertà*, the code of silence that's meant to keep information about business dealings within the family. Breaking it is a crime punishable by death, but, these days, a lot of mafiosi are speaking pretty freely. Take Salvatore (Sammy the Bull) Gravano, the Gambino family underboss in



## BULLISH Who is Sammy 'The Bull' Gravano?

Jacob Bentley-York  
11:10, 28 Jan 2022 | Updated: 16:08, 28 Jan 2022



**SAMMY** Gravano is a former American gangster who served as the underboss of the Gambino crime family.

Nicknamed "The Bull," he was responsible for helping the FBI bring down powerful Gambino boss [John Gotti](#) for good after he turned against the family.



Sammy Gravano is the former underboss of the Gambino crime family

### Who is Sammy 'The Bull' Gravano?

Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano was born on March 12, 1945.

His ancestry hails from Sicily, Italy, where both his parents were from.

Gravano struggled at school but was drafted into the US army and served in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

## Truth and Lies: The Last Gangster: who is Mafia hitman Sammy 'The Bull' Gravano, focus of Disney+ documentary?

Truth and Lies: The Last Gangster is a new Disney+ documentary that features an exclusive interview with a notorious member of the American Mafia

# RECENT PRESS



## Mob Mentality: Fmr Gambino underboss Sammy The Bull Gravano talks life in and after the Mafia with Eric Shawn

The new special is available to stream now on Fox Nation

In 1991, [Sammy "The Bull" Gravano](#) confessed to being a part of 19 mafia-related murders, and he subsequently broke the number one rule in every organized crime groups: don't be a rat. Now, [Fox Nation's](#) newest special 'Mob Mentality' delivers an exclusive interview with Sammy Gravano, who provides viewers with the unparalleled perspective of his experience as a hitman and underboss for the largest organized crime family in the [Italian-American mafia](#).

As a part of 'Mafia Week,' Fox Nation host [Eric Shawn](#) gives subscribers a glimpse inside



## Sammy Gravano, notorious gangster turned FBI informant, reflects 30 years later

"Being a gangster actually in my life was a curse," Gravano said.



Almost 30 years after providing testimony that brought the powerful Gambino crime family to its knees, notorious gangster Sammy "The Bull" Gravano said he still has his regrets.

"Is there anything that I feel I regret and that I would do differently? Of course," Gravano told ABC News in a new special, "Truth and Lies: The Last Gangster," now streaming on Hulu.

### Collateral damage

Despite a dramatic betrayal that turned Gravano against "the family" and brought down powerful Gambino boss John Gotti for good, no regret loomed as large as the ones about his real family, said Gravano.



OCTOBER 28, 2022



## How and why Sammy 'The Bull' Gravano turned on John Gotti

By Brad Hamilton April 30, 2022 | 9:01am | Updated



## Sammy 'The Bull' Gravano On Podcasting, Regret, True Mafia, Gotti

Semiretired, mobster Sammy Gravano tells Patch he enjoys the sun but doesn't enjoy seeing the faces of his victims. Also, he has a podcast.

Colin Miner, Patch Staff

Posted Thu, Apr 22, 2021 at 9:44 am MT | Updated Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 1:58 pm MT

Reply (1)





A laptop is shown from a front-facing perspective, displaying a promotional poster for the TV show 'The Last Gangster'. The poster features a man in a suit and hat against a red and black background. The title 'THE LAST GANGSTER' is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the title, the ABC network logo is visible, and at the bottom, it says 'STREAM ON hulu' in white and green text. The laptop keyboard is visible at the bottom of the frame.

# THE LAST GANGSTER

abc

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