

9/25/25

Mr. Cicone and the court,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today. My name is Amy [REDACTED] and I am speaking today on behalf of myself and my husband, Jeff, who is out of town on business today.

We want to express gratitude for the justice system of this county and of this country. We are grateful for due process, fair trials and enforcement of laws. We are so thankful for the first responders, law enforcement officers, witnesses and others who helped us on the night of our accident and have since reached out to help.

On June 22, 2024 – the date of the accident - our lives were forever changed. As detailed in the previous hearing, we sustained injuries that required hospitalization, surgery for my husband, back and wrist braces, physical and occupational therapy, and major limitations to our abilities to work, drive and do basic daily activities. We were unable to pick up or hold our granddaughter, who was 6 months old at the time. These limitations continued for several months. My husband needed assistance showering and dressing himself for 3 months. He spent every moment, including sleeping, wearing a back brace. The instability of his spine meant that a single wrong movement during those 3 months could lead to paralysis. This process of receiving treatment and the work of healing also meant significant emotional and mental struggle for both of us. While we have now healed and returned to normal activity, the bones of our spines and our wrists will never be the same. As individual people, we will never be the same.

As for the results of today's proceedings, we realize that the District Attorney represents the people of this county. He looks beyond our own personal interests to the needs of all citizens. We respect both his perspective and the perspective of the Judge, who sees both sides of this case. We are glad that we are not the ones who have to make this legal

decision. Overall, our greatest desire would be that, because of this case and ruling, the probability of drunk driving accidents occurring would be lower.

While this experience has been one we did not expect or want and we would not ever have chosen, we have seen much good come to our lives from it. First and foremost, we are so grateful to be alive and to have survived the accident. We are grateful for our bodies, for medical care and the ability to be healed. We have been able to turn to God and rely on Him in a very personal way. We have drawn closer together in our marriage. As we have relied on our children to care for us physically, to drive us to appointments, to cook and clean at home, we have grown closer to them and they have matured in their responsibilities. We have felt overwhelming love, prayers and acts of kindness from family and friends.

During our last hearing in July, I was extremely nervous to see you, Mr. Cicone, in the courtroom. I did not remember seeing you on the night of the accident and I was worried I might be overcome by feelings of anger, fear or resentment towards you. I spent a lot of time in the days before the hearing in prayer and asking for the prayers of my family.

When I walked into the courtroom and saw you, I was filled with peace. I felt I was able to see you as a person and have good feelings towards you. I know that this was a gift of God to me to be able to feel that way. While it is still not comfortable for me to be here and I still feel nervous, I want to wish you well. On behalf of myself and my husband, we hope that as we have had good come to our lives from this accident, you can also have good come to you. We hope you can heal with the help of those who love and care about you. We know we cannot control the choices of others, but we would hope that you would choose not to drink and drive again and that you would help others to avoid drinking and driving as well.