

To My Fellow Law Enforcement Officers,

My name is Andy Garcia. I retired from the Madison Police Department in 1999, after having been shot in the line of duty. My wife, Jean, our children and I, endured terrific emotional strife in the aftermath of the event, but the pain we endured during those dark days and months pales when compared to the tragedy we suffered on Friday May 15th, 2009 when our nineteen year-old daughter, Andrea Rose, was needlessly killed at the hands of a high speed driver.

Andrea Rose was a beautiful, gregarious, intelligent and ambitious young woman, whose only mistake was getting into a car driven by an irresponsible man. The driver pushed the limits of his high-performance vehicle with no regard for the safety of his passengers or anyone else on the road. He ignored the law, all standards of ethics and morality and created a scenario that resulted in the death of Andrea Rose and caused great bodily harm to others. Our daughter died because according to eyewitness statements, the driver was going between 70 to 100 miles per hour in a 55 miles per hour speed zone before losing control. As involved parents, both Jean and I asked Andrea to be very careful about riding with other people. Andrea told us that she would not ride with people who drove too fast and was not shy about asking people to drive responsibly. My family and I now live knowing that the last emotion she felt in her tragically short life was fear.

The enormity of our loss is immeasurable and often unbearable. We must work together to insure that other parents are spared the horror that is our reality. It is time to hold traffic criminals accountable and that means prosecuting them to the fullest extent of the law. Each time any one of us is behind the wheel, we trust that every other driver is responsible for the choices they make. We also trust that the criminal justice system will be responsible for the choices they make.

Law Enforcement officers respond to countless crashes on our highways and see first-hand the wanton waste caused by these drivers. Law Enforcement officers deliver the painful messages of loss to survivors who are left to piece their lives back together. Law enforcement officers then turn their work over to the prosecuting attorneys and hope to secure convictions against the drivers who have made shambles of others' lives.

IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE AND WE NEED YOUR HELP...

At present, the Dane County District Attorney is considering a plea bargain in the case against the driver of the car in which our daughter was a passenger, where the sentence would be far less than the maximum penalty, which to us is totally unacceptable.

Indeed there is no penalty that is equal to the value of our daughter's life, but those who knowingly commit such a crime, should be held accountable.

I need your help and ask you to contact the District Attorney, Brian Blanchard, at 215 S. Hamilton Street Madison WI 53703 immediately, so that the District Attorney can take your opinion into account. I ask you to voice your opposition to lenient sentencing for traffic criminals. Do it for Andrea. And if you don't want to do it for Andrea, do it for the children that you love. Be part of my family's effort to promote justice at: justiceforourchildren.net

Thank You!

The Andrew Garcia Family