

District Attorney Brian Blanchard
215 S. Hamilton Street
Madison WI 5703

Dear Mr. Blanchard,

It was with great sadness that we learned that Andrea Rose Garcia, the daughter of one of our own in the Law Enforcement community, was needlessly killed by a reckless driver. According to the Garcia Family, we learned that even though they believed that the driver should have been charged with Homicide by Reckless Use of a Motor Vehicle, your office decided on a charge of Homicide by Negligent Use of a Motor Vehicle which carried with it a ten-year prison sentence. The Garcia family was told that your office opted for the lesser charge to increase the likelihood of a conviction. We have further learned that the District Attorney's office is now seriously considering a plea bargain that would result in a significantly lesser penalty for this heinous traffic crime, advising that the Dane County court system will never consider the maximum sentence.

As Law Enforcement personnel, we think **IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE** when prosecuting traffic criminals: It is time to stop treating these defendants as victims. At a sentencing hearing, it is up to the judge to do his/her job. At that sentencing hearing, we are asking that you be the advocate for the citizens of Dane County. We are asking that you work to convince the judge that penalties for homicide by this type of dangerous conduct should be just as serious as the penalties for homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle.

We stand behind the Garcia family in requesting that your office examine the impact of reduced sentencing. We believe that by reducing sentences in cases such as this, the community is receiving a dangerous and incorrect message. Your office should reinforce the law with penalties that serve to protect us from, as in this case, reckless drivers. We, as Law Enforcement professionals, are burdened by the grave responsibilities associated with the needless roadway deaths and the sorrow that is brought to the doorstep of the survivors. Law Enforcement officers are burdened by vicarious trauma and post-traumatic stress in the aftermath of investigations involving preventable death – especially death of the young. It is time to send a clear message to all drivers in our community!

IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE

Sincerely, _____

Title: _____