



Dear Honorable Judge Surbeck, the Family of Eric Wells, Kurt Weekly & Mary (Mills) Weekly:

I must begin by saying something that I've wanted to say for a long time - something my attorney had to try to say for me to the media because of concern over self-incrimination rights. That is simply this: I apologize and I am sincerely sorry of the tragic collision that resulted in the untimely death of Mr. Eric Wells and severe injuries to Mr. Kurt Weekly and Mrs. Mary (Mills) Weekly on August 6, 2010. The accident has affected the lives of so many people and I'm not sure that any amount of words could fully express the sorrow I feel for being a part of it. There has not been a day go by over the past three plus years that I have not thought about it or replayed the events over and over in my head. I cannot begin to imagine the mental and physical pain/anguish that all of the victims and their families experience on a daily basis. Anger and hatred towards me are some of those emotions I am sure and that hurts me but I also understand. I realize that everyone involved has felt extreme amounts of sorrow and grief including my family and friends.

I think it is important for you to know that I have not been able to express my side of this terrible incident to anyone, who has or will control my future, until now. I was advised from the outset to speak nothing of this incident except to my attorneys and my immediate family. It has never been my intention to try to cover up or conceal from anyone. I was simply acting on the strong and trusted advice of my legal counsel.

I grew up in a loving home with my Mother and Stepfather (my parents had divorced when I was a toddler and my biological father was never really a part of my life). I was taught to serve the Lord, tell the truth, accept responsibility for my actions and to treat others as I wished to be treated. Those traits have remained with me and my wife and I have been raising our daughters in that same manner. From early in high school, I knew that I wanted to do two things in life since it was obvious I wouldn't be a professional athlete as most adolescent boys wish. I wanted to be a United States Marine and I also wanted to be a police officer. Fortunately, I was able to accomplish both of my career oriented goals. I

served in the Marines for a few years during which time I was meritoriously promoted to all of my ranks from E1-private through E-5 sergeant and was honorably discharged at which time I was hired by the Noblesville Police Department (in 1996). While working in Noblesville, I met my wonderful wife Lora. We have been married 14 years and have been blessed with two beautiful and very loving, intelligent daughters, Emma and Ellie.

One of my goals as a police officer was to work for the Indianapolis Police Department. In August of 2001 I was hired by IPD and our family moved to Indianapolis shortly thereafter. I didn't think that there was a better job than mine and I loved everything about it even more so when I became a K-9 officer. There was never a day or night that I did not look forward to going to work as a police officer in Indianapolis. I always volunteered to work extra or work special details, never called in sick and was a very proactive officer. During my time with IPD I was recognized as the Rookie of the Year, nominated for Officer of the Year, received numerous commendations and was awarded the Medal of Valor for my involvement in the police action shooting of a bank robber who fired at myself and fellow officers with an AK-47 assault rifle in April of 2010. My job defined a great deal of the person that I was and I took great pride in it. I always put the public I served above my own safety. My integrity with the public and my fellow officers was very important to me as well.

That brings me to the fateful and tragic day of August 6, 2010. The timeline of events leading up to and following the accident were presented correctly at the trial. Being the always proactive police officer was what I was doing that day. I never based my efforts to apprehend felons on the level of the felony that they were alleged to have committed. The policy of the unit that I worked in did not rank the felony level or our effort level by severity of felony either. I do admit that I was exceeding the posted speed limit and I did look at my in-car laptop computer for a moment to verify the description of the person I was looking for. I cannot admit to being intoxicated or consuming alcoholic beverages on August 6, 2010 because that is simply not the truth. Nevertheless, while I disagree with the jury's verdict I must respect our system of justice in this country. The tragic crash and the fallout from it have changed so many lives. Everyone involved in this incident is a victim in one way or another. There is not a day that goes by where I don't replay the events and the scene in my mind. I wake up every day

(and will for the rest of my life) knowing that I am responsible for taking the life of an innocent man and seriously injuring two others. There are not any words that could describe the pain and emotions I feel for being part of this tragedy just as I'm sure words cannot describe the pain and emotions of the other involved. As a result of the crash, I now take medication for severe depression, high blood pressure and I was hospitalized for a stroke. My family and I attended counseling together and separately following the accident through my wife's Employee Assistance Program. That apparently was not enough for me and I became more depressed and withdrawn leading to the most selfish and terrible decision of my life. I then drank to drown my problems and ease my pain.

I have realized how wrong I was to think that alcohol would help me cope with my emotions and depression following the accident. Things only became worse for my family, the other families and me. I also take full responsibility for my arrest April 27, 2013 and I am remorseful beyond words. I lost the trust of my wife, my kids, my extended family and friends and I made it much more difficult for people who don't know me or weren't there that day to believe that I had not been drinking August 6, 2010.

During my pre-sentence investigation, I was asked several questions and given information in regard to some questions I asked. I would like to explain some of my answers to you since you will ultimately be deciding my sentence. I was asked specifically what I would say to the victims if I had an opportunity. If I was given the opportunity to speak with the Wells Family, the Mills Family, and the Weekly Family, I would tell them what I have wanted to tell them for 3 ½ years. I would start by explaining to them how terribly sorry I am to have been involved in the accident that took the life of Eric Wells and forever changed the lives of Kurt Weekly and Mary (Mills) Weekly. I would also let them know that I understand their anger towards me and that I would never be able to relate to their pain both mental and physical. Without question, I would do everything I could to let them know that I do accept full responsibility for my actions that caused the horrible accident. I understand that no amount of words or actions will ever be able to bring Eric Wells back or heal the Weeklys and for that I am truly sorry. All I can do is accept responsibility for that day and try to do my part to prevent tragedies and the resulting errors from happening again. If any one of the victims wanted to ask me questions, I would answer them honestly. I would

do whatever possible to help the others to help the others find some bit of closure with this if it is even possible. Finally, I would explain to them that I am not the awful man I have been made out to be and I would beg them for their forgiveness. I indeed accept responsibility for this tragic collision and am remorseful beyond words.

Your Honor, I have never been in the slightest bit of trouble (other than a speeding ticket 21 years ago) and I have always respected the law. I will continue to respect the law and immerse myself in intensive counseling for depression and alcohol. One of my goals would ultimately be to aid others in public safety in dealing with stress, emotional issues, and alcohol or substance abuse problems resulting from critical incidents. I am respectfully and humbly asking for your mercy on me and especially my family. I've already missed so many milestones in my daughter's lives and want to be there for them as soon as possible in the future. I beg that I can be placed in a safe location close to my family in Indianapolis so that they may visit me without hardship and expense of travelling a long distance.

Finally, I ask you to consider the person I strive to be and the entirety of my life. Please understand that I never intended for this tragedy to happen and how truly sorry I am. And please allow me through treatment to work diligently toward repairing this admittedly flawed person so that I can again someday lead a life of positive example and service to others.

Respectfully,

David Bisard