

**OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
FOR
BALTIMORE CITY**

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Patricia C. Jessamy
State's Attorney

Phone 443-984-1121

June 16, 2008

Via Electronic Mail

Ms. Anna Cheng

Dear Anna:

I apologize for not writing or contacting you sooner. After being contacted by William Cheng on Thursday, I was as stunned as you were when I read the article published in *Exhibit A*. I immediately contacted the prosecutor to learn more about his interest in the case as a witness. It was soon obvious that there were major misrepresentations in the article and I have not wanted to comment publicly until I could more fully understand how this occurred.

In addition, I believe that we must live together in community and seek forgiveness, restoration and reconciliation of those who we offend, and we must do this privately and not in any way that may appear insincere. That is why I have not wanted to respond publicly to the many media inquiries, until I had an opportunity to let you know personally how sorry I am for all of this distraction and pain.

I want you to know that I was vastly misrepresented in this article and that I understand that Zach was not a "sleeping baby when he arrived at the hospital". I did respond to the reporter regarding specific questions related to the court proceedings, and I did outline the convictions on the public record for the four teens involved in the case. Because there have been inaccuracies in published reports about this case, and we cannot comment in pending matters, I did try to correct the record for this reporter who was writing an article that included the offenders' criminal records. Despite my attempt, this information was incorrect in the article as well.

The interview occurred many weeks ago, but it is just recently published. I cannot recall speaking in the tone or description that was used in the article. My entire tenure in the State's Attorney's Office has been one in which I recognize and appreciate the pain and anguish suffered by crime victims and their families. I would never do anything to increase that pain and anguish.

Please also know that in addition to the Communications Division's awareness of victims needs, Mrs. Jessamy, the attorneys and all of the staff has set victim services as a priority for this office. We all work hard every day to assure that victims are treated fairly, and with compassion.

The group of citizen friends, family and community gathered as a result of Zach's tragedy has contributed a wonderful gift to Baltimore through your collective voice of presence and interest in Zach's case and our criminal justice system. Too often we have spoken about the absence of outrage at senseless tragedies in our community. We do not want to silence your voice at this senseless tragedy, but hope that it can be used to build towards a community dialogue on violence reduction and victim support. I encourage you to invest in making sure that the voice of our crime victims continues.

Sincerely,



Margaret T. Burns