

Personal Statement

I am writing this statement in the hopes of clarifying why I am not in attendance at today's proceeding. My absence should in no way be seen as a spurning of the process, nor is it meant as a protest against the existence of the board. It is merely a matter of me being very cognizant of my own well-being.

I have gained certain personal insights over these last two years since that tragic day in September of 2006. Most of all is the profound realization that the health and safety of my family is in direct proportion to my own mental and spiritual well being. This understanding comes after two years of being stretched thin by a process that seems to be bereft of any rhyme or reason. The tragedy of Mr. Chasse's death is horrific in and of itself. However, the events of the last two years have added a burden that at times has been almost unbearable. I have been through a grand jury process that was extended over a two week period in order to entertain witnesses provided by an outside counsel. I underwent a lengthy interview with detectives that lasted for a number of hours. I was questioned by Internal Affairs for an estimated time of about eight hours. I have undergone not one, but two lengthy depositions at the hands of an attorney who has made it his personal mission to harass and vilify me at every turn. Every aspect of my personal life has been plowed up and gone over to a degree that goes beyond merely being intrusive. My home address was posted on anti-police websites. My picture, along with threatening flyers, was posted and distributed throughout downtown Portland. I was pulled from my unit and placed in another division because I was considered a "political flashpoint". And still, the process drags on. My psyche has been scarred enough, beginning with the moment that Mr. Chasse and I came into contact.

This statement is not meant to offend or sound trite. It is not written from the point of view of a victim of the system. I simply wish to convey to you why I am not present today. I believe in what needs to be done, and have no malice towards the goals set out by this process. I do find fault in the length of time that it has taken to resolve these issues, and no excuse can convince me that two years is an acceptable amount of time to keep a person in this limbo.

By not attending, I am not denying the legitimacy of the process. I have chosen not to attend because each of these occasions has a tendency to push me back into the nightmare. I choose not to attend solely for the health and welfare of my family.

I apologize for my absence. What is done is done. I am aware that the investigation, due to its protracted length and scope, has been very in-depth. I do understand that there may be further questions of me that might arise from these proceedings. If that is the case, then I will, at your leisure, seek to answer them. Until that moment, the information at hand should speak for itself as to what occurred here. A tragic accident brought on by a number of different factors. We have all heard the rhetoric – “a failed mental health system, failed medical response, failed police training”. Whatever may be, please, I ask only that you look at this situation with an objective eye. Thank you.