

August, 20 2015

Honorable Judge Nichols,

On behalf of Gregory Spector, my blood cousin, I write to you. Whether this letter reaches you first or last in the succession of concern letters to come, you will become familiar with whom Gregory Spector really is. The judicial system is not something I'm too familiar with, sure I know at its core; crimes/disputes are to be evaluated and once a conclusion is reached a just penalty assigned accordingly. Forgive the cliché' but sometimes things aren't so black and white but are a thick gray soup of the two. But, no matter how neutrally gray, a decision of charges must be made.

Gregory is two years younger than me, and as children I often saw both him and his sister Breana. We are a close family. I always enjoyed being around Gregory, despite how quiet he could be at times because making him laugh was fun and easy. His contagious chuckle was inescapable to anyone who had heard it. We had/have similar interests too, trucks, construction, sports. We went from playing in dirt with Legos to working alongside each other crafting in high-rise buildings throughout Philadelphia. I admired Gregory's goals, I went to college after high school, and Gregory had always known what he wanted to do. And he did it. Work hard to be a skilled carpenter and start a family. I wasn't shocked when I heard about him volunteering as a firefighter though I knew his fear of heights.

Gregory is a lot of thing but a criminal is not one of them. This situation Gregory is in now really shook the earth under the feet of people who know him best and is nearly shattering his own spirit. I obviously don't need to summarize the case for you, your honor, but I know his and his father's intentions were not maliciously natured as they are accused of being. One doesn't forewarn the police before committing a "robbery" or "attempted man slaughter", they just don't, but as the court sees it, Gregory did. He is too honest and was looking to do the right thing. The illegitimate sale of the cell phone would not be enough to break the ethics of either Gregory or my Uncle Lonnie. Upon writing this, I once more find myself neck deep in the muck of gray. A crime was committed. Someone was seriously injured, crippled. Gregory was the man who had pulled the trigger, but a criminal, a wickedly violent robber, no.

I understand Gregory must pay for his actions. I understand that you must decide on a sentence that best fits. I sat in the courtroom and watched as the lawyers waved their fingers at Lonnie, Gregory, and Sardor further mixing the white and black to the homogenous gray. My intent with this letter is not to persuade you to sentence my cousin lightly or harshly; it's merely to bring some color to the portrait of Gregory Spector. Speaking for family and friends of Gregory, we are wishful, we are realists, and we want what is best for Gregory.

Thank you for your attention,
Brandon Spector