

Statement of Crissana Gibson AND Summer Presson:

My name is Crissana Gibson, the only child of Officer Allen Gibson. My Father, my sole custodian, gave his life for the Town of Waverly on April 25, 1998, when I was only 8 years old. The tragedy that occurred that Spring day changed my life in ways unimaginable, and in ways I would not wish on any other person. Recently, I learned that an investigation into whether Terrence Richardson and Ferrone Claiborne were truly responsible for my father's murder is likely imminent. While I certainly would have hoped someone in the current administrations would have taken the time to contact me, Summer, and my grandparents beforehand, that did not happen. One thing that is clear and evident from the dying words of my dad, two black males are responsible for his death. If proof exists that Ferrone Claiborne and Terrence Richardson, who are incarcerated for dealing drugs and plea bargaining to his murder, are innocent of the murder, I support an investigation to prove their innocence of the murder. If the judicial system finds that their convictions are solid and just, then I pray that they are not released and spend the rest of their life convictions behind bars. I also pray that if Mr. Claiborne and Mr. Richardson are innocent, that the justice system bases their time behind bars only on their drug convictions and immediately pursues the two men that ultimately took my daddy's life and hold them accountable.

I am fortunate that Lindsay Hartz, whose father, Mayor of Waverly at the time, loved my father and who loves me, sought me out to ensure I was not taken off guard by something that will absolutely impact my family, along with the families of Terrence and Ferrone.

Let me be clear-- I want the persons responsible for my father's murder to be held fully accountable for their actions; if that is not Terrence and Ferrone, I want justice done for them AND IT MUST NOT STOP THERE. I join Summer Presson, who my father loved very much and with whom he intended to make a home for me in Waverly, in her prayers that the justice system will seek truth, right, and leave no further question about my father's murder so that all involved can begin to heal. That is what my father deserves and it is what I demand.

Statement of Lindsay Hartz:

The luxury afforded to a Commonwealth's Attorney is the ability to pursue the RIGHT outcome in every situation. Not what is popular, not what the crowds demand, not what serves his or her private purpose—THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH AND RIGHT. I am not yet your Commonwealth's Attorney, but I believe statements as impactful as potentially reopening the murder of Officer Allen Gibson are far too important to be made on Facebook Live and without having spoken in depth with the families of Officer Gibson.

I only recently learned of the volumes of research completed by the attorney for Terrence Richardson and Ferrone Claiborne. As a private citizen, I do not have the investigative powers afforded to the current administration, but what I do have is a desire to know the truth, all of it, and to push forward toward the pursuit of the RIGHT OUTCOME, whether that is popular with any group.

That is what I will do as your Commonwealth's Attorney. I will seek the truth. I will pursue the right outcome. I will take the hard cases, not just the ones easily winnable. I will take cases of actual innocence seriously and investigate them to ensure that justice has been done for EVERY citizen of Sussex County.

I stand with Crissana Gibson, Summer Presson, and every citizen of this town who demands that the RIGHT THING be done. For Officer Gibson. For his family. For Terrence Richardson. For his family. For Ferrone Claiborne. For his family.

I want Sussex to know that I am not seeking one type of vote. I am seeking the vote of EVERY SUSSEX CITIZEN who wants a Commonwealth's Attorney who will pursue truth and justice, whether popular or not, simply because that is the RIGHT thing to do.