

December, 2009

Chief Wilkinson
Police Chief, City of Neenah
Neenah, WI

RE: JENNIFER BUKOSKY WEBSITE

Dear Chief Wilkinson:

My name is Judy Jenkins. My husband and I live in Ozaukee County. We are the parents of Jennifer Bukosky, an Oconomowoc Asst. Principal who was killed on April 25, 2008 by Mark Benson, a former physician with a long history of drug and alcohol abuse. Benson rammed into the back of Jennifer's car without even braking and while exceeding the speed limit. She was stopped at a red light when she was hit. She and the three children riding in her car didn't have a chance.

Benson was charged with driving while under the influence of prescription drugs, driving on a revoked license, 3 counts of vehicular homicide, 1 charge of grave bodily harm and 1 count of bodily harm. He had received his 3rd OWI conviction 2 days prior to the crash. He was to report to Huber for a 75 day sentence 15 days after sentencing. Unfortunately, and senselessly, he killed our daughter and two granddaughters before reporting to jail. Jennifer was 7 months pregnant at the time. Benson also killed our 10 year old granddaughter, Courtney Bella. Our 12 year old grandson survived the crash but not without injuries. A friend of Courtney's, 10 year old Debbie, survived but was gravely injured. She is still undergoing reconstructive surgeries. On August 18, 2009, Mark Benson was sentenced to serve 30 years in a correctional facility.

Because our lives have been changed forever and because we feel the need to call attention to this issue, we are working to persuade the legislators of Wisconsin to change current OWI statutes. We have had a website designed to get the attention of lawmakers, as well as the citizens of this state. This website provides an opportunity for people to sign a petition demanding stronger laws and easily allows them to email their individual legislators.

Recently, Governor Doyle signed into law legislation that is a step in the right direction, although we view this new law as a "baby step." We are currently involved with a bipartisan work group in Madison, consisting of senators and assemblymen from both parties, WISDOT, the Legislative Bureau, the Legislative Council, Reps from Governor Doyle's Office, Reps from the Association of Counties, District Attorneys and Public Defenders, local and state policing agencies, MADD, AWARE, and Sheriff David A. Clarke, Jr., Milwaukee County Sheriff. Legislative OWI reform is the goal of this group. In late November, 2009, Representatives Krusick, Bies, and J. Ott as well as Senators Darling, Olsen, and Carpenter introduced ASSEMBLY BILL 547. This bill is comprehensive in nature and two of its primary goals are making the first OWI offense a

misdemeanor, and lifting the ban on Sobriety Checkpoints. We are also working within the schools to integrate AODA programs into the current curriculum.

I know your Department is critically important in helping to make the roads of Wisconsin a safer place to be. It helps to know that my husband and I are not the only ones who are fighting this battle. Our story is all too common; and as you know firsthand, OWI stats in Wisconsin are some of this nation's worst and are shameful. To this end, I am asking that you consider putting a link to Jennifer's website on your homepage so that all voters/citizens in this state can go there to sign our petition; but more importantly, email their individual legislators and ask for legislative support of Assembly Bill 547. The bill will likely be heard before the Criminal Justice Committee in the spring session.

Our website was designed to point and click, making it easy to access and use. Jennifer's site is: <http://www.jenniferbukosky.com>. I invite you to go to the site and browse around. Take some time to consider whether or not this request is something you could support. The following County Sheriff's Departments have linked to Jennifer's site: Barron, Brown, Dodge, Door, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Oconto, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan and Winnebago. The Green Bay Police Department and the Mequon Police Department, as well as MADD, have posted links to our daughter's website. We appreciate the job all of your officers do on a daily basis. Our goal is to take drunk/drugged drivers off the road through tougher legislation. And we will not go away until our goal is achieved. Please feel free to share your thoughts with us after going to the website.

Thanking you in advance. Thanks for your support. Thanks for being out there on the roads – all too often, a very scary place to be.

Sincerely,

Judy & Paul Jenkins
Mequon, WI