

November 13, 2019

To: Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin

**From: Concerned Members of the Disability Community of California
Regarding the Shooting of Kenneth French**

We, the undersigned, are persons with developmental differences in California, family members and advocates. We have followed the June 14, 2019 shooting at the Costco store in Corona, from its first reporting to the announcement on September 25 by your office that no charges would be brought against Officer Salvador Sanchez.

We want the family of Kenneth French to know that they are not alone. This shooting has attracted a good deal of attention and concern among the disability community throughout California and throughout the United States. It cannot be quickly forgotten.

We are committed to bringing greater transparency and accountability to the shooting. We also are committed to putting into place structures to prevent similar shootings in the future. No member of the disability community should need to worry that shoving someone will be met with immediate shooting, especially by a trained police officer.

The first media notice moved rapidly around the disability blogosphere in California. While there was alarm at the shooting, there was agreement that there should be no rush to judgment. In other high-profile police shootings, the initial reports have turned out to be inaccurate. Additional information might cast the shooting in a far different light. Further, our disability community has been a strong supporter of law enforcement in California, as law enforcement plays a key role in protecting our most vulnerable members.

However, as more facts came, the shooting became even more disturbing. By your office's account, Kenneth French's parents immediately tried to intervene and explain Kenneth's disability. Less than 5 seconds elapsed between the initial push and Officer Sanchez opening fire. Officer Sanchez fired not once, but 10 shots.

We respectfully request a meeting with representatives from the Inland Empire Developmental Disability Safety Task Force with your office in the near future to review the decision not to indict, and to discuss how shootings might be prevented in the future. You may contact Tamica Fouts-Rachal, Regional Manager of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, San Bernardino Office at tamica.foots-rachal@scdd.ca.gov / (909) 890-1259, or Beth Burt, Executive Director, Autism Society Inland Empire at bburt@ieautism.org / (951) 532-4462.



Thank you,

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director, State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Art Santos, Executive Director, The Arc of Imperial Valley
Beth Burt, Executive Director, Autism Society Inland Empire/President, Autism Society of California
Camilla Bixler, AASCEND Co-Chair
Douglas Moore, Executive Director, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930
Dr. Nora Baladerian, Ph.D., Project Director, Disability Abuse Project
Erin Stream, Executive Director, The Arc of Riverside
Greg Wetmore, President/CEO, United Cerebral Palsy Inland Empire
Greg Yates, ASSCEND Co-Chair
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, Chief Executive Officer, Strategies to Empower People
Jill Escher, President, Autism Society San Francisco/Bay Area
Jordan Lindsey, Executive Director, The Arc of California
Joshua Weitzman, Executive Director, Alpha Resource Center
Juan Carlos Garcia, Managing Director, Special Needs Network
Judy Mark, President, Disability Voices United and Autism Society Los Angeles
Karen Gregorius, Executive Director, The Arc of Amador and Calaveras Counties
Kristie Sepulveda-Burchit, Executive Director, Educate Advocate and Empower Family California
Leigh Ann Davis, Director, National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability/Criminal Justice Initiatives
Mark Melanson, Executive Director, California Supported Living Network
Marty Omoto, Executive Director, California Disability Action Network
Melody Amaral, Chief Executive Officer, The Wylie Center
Michael Bernick, Parent and ASSCEND Board Member
Teresa Anderson, Public Policy Director, The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

INDIVIDUALS – Most who reside in the Inland Empire

Adrienne Alicia
Agripina Neubauer, Mother of two children with autism
Albert Solorzano, Parent of Brandon Solorzano, child with Autism
Alesia Garrett, Mother
Alexandria Kabia
Alma Rodriguez, Riverside Regional coordinator
Amy Putnam, Parent
Amy Robyn, Parent
Ana Reyes, Mother
Andy Trujillo, Parent
Anel Ibarra, parent
Angela Siliezarâ, Parent of autistic adult
Annel Marqueno, Attendant Speedwash
Anthony Sciortino, grandfather
Arnold Davis, Medical Transportation Technician
Barbara Duran, Parent
Briseida Ramirez, Professor
Carla Wickey, Caretaker
Carlos Martinez

Carmen King
Carolynn Chatman, Director of Community Employment Services EXCEED
Catalina Castillo, parent
Catherine Kinzey
Cathy Gallicano, Caregiver of daughter with severe autism (non-verbal)
Christina Garcia
Christine Stachurski
Cristal Spears, Parent of child with Autism
Cynthia Estrada
Darla Johnson
DENISE WOOLSEY, Parent of Adult with Autism
Desiree Musngi, Childcare Provider
Diana Moore, Parent
Diana Robertson-Ramos, Facilitator, High Desert Autism Support Group
Donna Candelas Parent
Dr. Louis Vismara, Parent
Dwanna Williams, clerical assistant courtw
Elisabeth Estes, grandparent
Elizabeth Davis, Credit Union Executive Assistant
Erania Martin-Lang, Program Manager, Easterseals Southern California
Erica Leal, Care giver
Erin Allen, Contracts Kana Pipeline Inc
Eunice Garcia, Parent
Everardo Gonzalez
Faith Butterfield, Animator
Flora Martinez, Advocate, Inland Empire Latino Coalition
Frinee Mayagoitia, Parent
Ginger Yepes,
Gladys Villagrana
Glorious Young Caregiver of child with autism
Griselda Gonzalez, Mother of children with Autism, Romero Gonzalez
Guadalupe Diaz, OAI, Riverside County
Gustavo Garcia Jr, GWA, Home Depot RDC
Holly Cancino, Dispatcher for auto transport
Irma P
Ivette Ramirez Windsor
Jeanette Ramos, Mother
Jennifer Lewis
Jenny Hua, Parent of Vincent Nguyen who has autism
Jessica Christman
Jessica Munoz, Mother of a person with autism
Jessie Schafer, retired, Sacramento County
Joe Veltri, Parent of young man on the autism spectrum
John Fletcher, Father of special needs child
Jose Garcia, father of Enrique Garcia autistic
Juanita Hernandez, Affiliate Administrator, Coachella Valley Autism Society
Julie Price, parent
Kaitlyn Rojas, Child Advocate Counselor, Alba Care Services Inc

Karen Aceves, Mother
Karen Bradstreet
Karen Pender, retired teacher
Karyl Eugene, Retired
Kathy Lee Martinez, Social Work Intern Carolyn E. Wylie Center
Kellee Smith, Mortgage Underwriter
Kristen Rusten, Caregiver, IHSS San Bernardino
Lana Anders, Grandparent
Laura Kamiyama
Laura Schley, home care provider, IHSS
Liliana Alvarado, Parent
Lisa Dryan, Parent
Lisa Edmond, Parent
Lisa Hernandez, School Program Technician, Colton School District,
Lisa Rivera, Mother of a child living with Autism
Lucy Campos
Lucy Curiel, Parent of Brandon Solorzano, child with Autism
Lynda Steiner, small Business owner
M Posada, Parent
Marcelina Ramirez
Marcia Eichelberger, Past President Autism Society of California and parent, mardere58@gmail.com
Marely Bojorquez, Parent
Maren Chediak, parent,
Margaita Perez, In home care giver
Maria Rascon, Parent of Maya Rascon- child with Autism
Maria Wright
Mariah Hyder, Bank teller Wells Fargo
Maricruz Andrio
Marissa Rodriguez, Caregiver Ihss
Martha Delgado, Grandmother
Matthew Wickey, Student and person on the spectrum
May Calaoagan, CLS LabCorp
Melissa Franco, Mother of daughter with autism
Michael Santibanez, person on the spectrum
Michele Carlzen
Michele Villa, Parent to Autistic Person
Mireya Soto-Acalco
Miriam Ness, Homemaker
Molly Galli, IHSS provider, Riverside County IHSS
Monique Beck, Caregiver Ihss
Monique Rodriguez, EPM I
Nancy Knight
Nanice Ahmed, Parent
Nicole Aptekar, Parent
Nicole Guthrie
Olivia Finley, parent
Pamela Hamilton, Parent
Pamela Pagan, Sr. Office Admin

Patricia Cardenas
Patricia Hogge, Mother to Charles BLAYLOCK with Autism
Patricia Phoonphiphatana, Parent
Paula Sciortino, grandparent
Paymaan Shafai, Project Manager
Priscilla Molina, Caregiver Ihss
Rachel Mataiumu, Board Member, Unity Tree
Randa Fletcher, Caregiver
Raul Rocha
Rebecca Gutierrez
Rebecca Wilkins
Regina Bennett, Caretaker of a young adult with autism, IHSS
Renee Noflin
Renee Noflin, Parent of Special Needs Child
Renee Roberts
Rita Ramirez, Customer service Kaiser
Robert Lopez
Roger Powell, Instructional Assistant- Autism, Moreno Valley Unified school district
Roman Rocha
Ros Middleton, Grandparent of young adult w/autism
Rudy Cerna, Engineer
Saleem Afzali
Samantha Sanchez, Caregiver IHSS
Shannan Ash, Mother/Educator
Shannon Moraga, Caretaker IHSS
Sharon Santibanez, parent
Sheldon Peterson, parent with autistic spectrum son
Sherril Tinder, parent of autistic son
Sonya Morgan, Parent of a child with Autism
Stacey Puentes
Stella Rocha
Steven Weiss, Line Worker
Sue Shahtout
Suzanne Melrose, parent of Ariane, an autistic young woman
Sydney Edmond, Person with autism
TERESSA Borrayo, Program supervisor Bright Horizons
Theresa McFarland, retired educator
Tina Hoff, Retired
Tina Pattison, Parent
Tyrone Spears, Chief Risk Officer CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Veronica Garcia, Parent
Vicki Smith Prigmore
Vickie Zibrida, Caregiver IHSS
Victoria Martelli
Yvette Espinoza, Care giver IHSS