

For Public Release – April 24, 2019

Officer Wende Kerl is not going to comment while the investigation is still pending. However, as her attorney, I stated in both court hearings about the Body Worn Camera video release that we were in favor of full disclosure of the video once the investigation was complete. Furthermore, in the hearing yesterday, April 24, 2019, I requested the full video be released immediately. The Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department was the only party advocating for anything less than full disclosure.

We have avoided making any public comment to this point because we did not intend on trying this case in the media. Now, we feel obligated to do so because of certain statements that have been made both in court and in the press.

The whole story cannot be told in either a 2 minute and 20 second video or the full 11-minute video. Mr. Franklin went to the Burger King that day with a firearm and the intention of threatening and assaulting a former domestic partner. After committing multiple acts of domestic violence inside the restaurant and pointing that firearm at multiple people, he left and went outside.

What has never been mentioned is that there was an innocent civilian talking to Mr. Franklin no more than a few feet away when, after being told more than twenty times to either “show us your hands” or “drop the gun” he pulls the gun out in the direction of the civilian. It is all this information that Officer Kerl had to analyze in a split second and then decide to protect the life of that civilian, the greater Charlotte public in the area, her partner Officer Larry Deal, and lastly herself.

We look forward to the completion of the investigation by the Mecklenburg County District Attorney’s Office and their ultimate decision.