

Dear Mr. Palladino,

I would like to thank you and your members for your unwavering support for my son, imprisoned NYPD Police Officer Richard DiGuglielmo. Your graciousness at the "Police Involved Shooting Seminar" in Yorktown Heights in June was comforting and your kind words heartfelt. I hope all who attended realize how quickly their lives could be turned upside down in the blink of an eye.

I want to thank the DEA Board for confronting Jeanine Pirro (who is under federal investigation) on a variety of personal and professional issues and asking the hard questions regarding my son's case and about Pirro's own ethical problems. I also want to thank (DEA Borough Director) Ken Cardona for bringing Richard's situation to the attention of the DEA Board. Ken was in the Academy with Richard. Ken's support and influence during the interview of Jeanine Pirro, who sought the DEA endorsement for Attorney General, was instrumental in the DEA's endorsement of Andrew Cuomo. My son was a former PBA member and the DEA was the first NYPD union endorsement that Pirro sought, after which every NYPD union, and most Police unions throughout NYS, refused to endorse her. The strength and integrity of your DEA Board is responsible for this.

Richard DiGuglielmo was charged and convicted of Deprived Indifference Murder for using deadly force against a violent felon with 10 previous arrests and who was beating his father (who had just had a heart attack a few months prior) with a baseball bat. What should have been deemed a justifiable homicide became complicated by the inflammatory and false statements by DA Pirro, claiming that this incident was sparked by racial slurs. Not unlike the Nifong case or the Sean Bell case, the rush to judgment and media frenzy create a public mind set that poisons the jury pool. The 1997 election for Westchester County DA was one of the motivating forces for Pirro playing the race card.

For the year leading up to the trial, we had protests organized by Randolph Scott McLoughlin and attended by Al Sharpton outside my business in an attempt to put me out of business. At the end of a 33 day trial, not one witness was produced that said they heard any words at all, let alone racial slurs. To this day, no one from the DA's office has come forward to correct the inflammatory statement about race. To the contrary, Pirro has written a book that still insists that this shooting was the result of racial bias. The fact that the DA and Dobbs Ferry Police Dept. would not allow the NYPD to investigate this case at all, and would not share any information with them, speaks volumes. Had the NYPD not been barred from the investigation, the coercion of witnesses would not have taken place and their original statements that supported the justification would not have changed during repeated interviews.

Richard has served 10 years of a 20 years-to-life sentence. Richard is by choice in the general population of a maximum security NYS prison and not segregated from other inmates. These inmates understand his actions and respect him for not hiding in protective custody. He deals with his situation every day knowing he saved his father's life.

I want to thank all who attended the seminar for receiving me so well. I would appreciate it if you would all keep informed and inform others about Richard's case. The website is www.richarddiguglielmo.org or www.justiceforRichie.org

Sincerely,

RoseMarie DiGuglielmo



Dear Det. Palladino,

I am writing to commend two members of the DEA staff, Artie Williams and John Minerva. When a line of duty injury I suffered became a disability, I had no idea where to turn. I felt like it was me against the mighty NYPD. A phone call to John Minerva changed that. It became obvious that John was quite knowledgeable in this area and his guidance and assistance was invaluable in getting the ball rolling.

During the long process that followed, I had become quite a pest with repeated phone calls to Artie Williams. Artie went above and beyond his scope of employment to get answers for me right up to the day that the Board of Trustees voted.

These two guys should be acknowledged for their professionalism and expertise. Thank you, and please thank them on my behalf for living up to the motto, "The Greatest Detectives in the World."

Sincerely,

Det. Donovan Race, Retired

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