

September 23, 2020

Fairfax Board of Supervisors  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Re: 2020 Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Resources  
Report dated September 22, 2020

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to denounce some irresponsible statements made about the former Fairfax prosecutor and the treatment of crime victims in his office. I am frankly shocked and angry, that these inaccurate comments were tolerated in a public forum. I have personally worked with both the Fairfax Police Department and District Attorney as the surviving sister of a brutal murder. For almost 20 years, our case was unsolved and I became very close to several investigators who worked on the murder case of my 22-year old sister Rachael and her boyfriend. The only people who understood us were the other survivors of the homicides, the Fairfax Police and the Victim Advocate, Saly Fayez.

When we finally solved my sister's case 20 years later, I remember Ray Morrogh and Casey Lingen very well because they took a lot of time to check in with my family and always answered the questions we had. We had to deal with a smirking murderer defendant who behaved very casually in court, once winking at my mother. Ray Morrogh was very sensitive about this and never allowed us to feel embarrassed about our emotions which ran high.

By the time we attended our third trial, my mother had cancer and I remember the defendant staring at me during the trial until his lawyers blocked his view. I got through those difficult days by focusing on whatever Ray Morrogh said and sitting behind him and Casey Lingen. The defendant's lawyers were selected because of their experience with death penalty cases but not for any interest in victims' rights. We learned how my sister's life was brutally taken despite her pleas to be allowed to live. It was so difficult for us and heartbreaking to witness this quietly.

I must tell you that Ray Morrogh always supported my family from start to finish and we were very close. He always made sure we could express any concerns about the criminal justice system. Our families had a room where we could take a break privately and speak to each other. I don't know how we would have managed attending these trials without the constant flow of communication.