

REMARKS OF G. MICHAEL GREEN

Press Conference Announcing charges in Commonwealth v. Niederland

March 15, 2007

On February 27, 2007, at approximately 9:55 in the evening, Anthony Christopher, a 21 year old young man who was waiting in a lawfully parked car at 82 Summit Avenue in Concord, Pennsylvania while his brother went into the residence to pick up their mother was killed in a horrible car crash by an oncoming vehicle. Today, after a thorough investigation by Troopers Erin Jason and Joseph McCunney, charges have been filed against Gary Paul Niederland for killing Mr. Christopher. Specifically, Mr. Niederland has been charged with Homicide by Vehicle while Driving Under the Influence, Homicide by Vehicle, Aggravated Assault while Driving Under the Influence, Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Controlled Substances, and related offenses.

The investigation of this matter has revealed that at the time Mr. Christopher was killed Mr. Niederland was operating a motor vehicle with a Blood Alcohol Content of .167% and while under the influence of cocaine. The investigation further revealed that Mr. Niederland had collided with a telephone pole nearly a half-mile before colliding with Mr. Christopher's car.

I have stated many times that drunk and/or intoxicated drivers are some of the most dangerous individuals to threaten the safety of our residents. Any time you have someone driving a mass of steel on our roadways when he or she is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, terrible consequences can result. This is one such horrific circumstance. As is so often the case, a law abiding citizen, minding their own business, and through no fault of their own, is killed or seriously injured by the recklessness of a drunk driver. We cannot tolerate this any longer, and it is important that the public knows that I, the Troopers here with me today, and all other law enforcement officers in the county will do everything necessary to arrest and prosecute drunk drivers. We all must be vigilant of this danger and each of us must do our part to guard against such criminal conduct.

As in all criminal cases, I remind you that the charges filed against Mr. Niederland are merely accusations and he deemed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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