



January 25, 2006

Mr. Peter Gilchrist, III  
District Attorney  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg County  
700 E. Trade Street  
Charlotte, N.C. 28202

Dear Mr. Gilchrist:

The League of American Bicyclists joins cyclists throughout the state of North Carolina and the nation to encourage you to stand up for the rights of cyclists.

The death of Todd Weaver on Friday, October 14, 2005 is a tragedy from which all motorists can learn. It is our wish that you charge the defendant appropriately, including prohibiting him from driving a bus in the future.

You have the opportunity to make a strong statement that killing a cyclist, even through negligence, is a serious crime that deserves serious punishment. There is a false notion that when a cyclist, such as Todd Weaver, is killed that it is not a serious offense. This misconception must be rejected, and it can be if you charge the driver to the full extent of the law.

As you know, the bus driver who killed Mr. Weaver has a history of dangerous driving and has had seven accidents in the past four and a half years. He should not have been behind the wheel of a public transportation bus in the first place, and had he not been, Todd would still be with his family and friends today. We therefore encourage you push for an appropriate sentence that includes the termination of the defendant's license to drive a public transportation bus.

As the national organization representing the interests of 89 million cyclists, we thank you for considering this request. Cyclists have the same rights and should expect the same level of safety as all other users of the road.

Please contact me if you have any questions on this matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Clarke".

Andy Clarke  
Executive Director