



January 25, 2006

Mr. Robert Taylor
Assistant District Attorney
Hinds County
407 E. Pascagoula St.
Jackson, MS 39201-4206

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The League of American Bicyclists joins cyclists throughout the state of Mississippi and the nation to encourage you to safeguard the right of the citizens of Hinds County Mississippi to travel safely.

The death of James McKinnie on June 30, 2005 is a tragedy from which all motorists can learn. It is our wish that you charge the defendant appropriately.

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

The facts of this case make it astonishingly clear that the driver who killed Mr. McKinnie should never have been behind the wheel. That he left the scene of the accident alone should be enough to make the case that this man should be held fully responsible. We therefore encourage you push for an appropriate sentence that includes the maximum jail sentence for this crime.

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