

MORE VICTIMS OF CRIME IN CHARLOTTE, NC

By Michael Galvin and Family

I am writing this letter as a follow up to the Montognese's June 9, 2008 email on the subject.

Our family is one of those many victims referred to in the Montognese's email. Our daughter, Christy Galvin murdered in your Charlotte city on July 4, 2005 was not found until July 5, 2008. We received notice of her death via a telephone call and immediately dropped everything in California to go to Charlotte. While the suspect of the murder was arrested shortly after her murder, now three years later, he remains to this day in Charlotte county jail.

At our own expense, we have made numerous trips from California, first to bring our daughter home to rest and every time we were aware of a court hearing, often at a day's notice. To date, I have attended every court hearing that we were aware of. My wife, other daughter, and son have also attended court hearings in Charlotte. Quite frankly, we are perplexed as to why there are so many court hearings. There was a preliminary hearing, a first reading, a second reading, a bail hearing, several other motion proceedings, and three separate hearings at the request of the defendant to fire his public defenders, two of which were granted and none of which afforded me as a victim to address the court. Obviously, the trial date gets pushed back each time the public defenders are fired. To our knowledge there is no trial date set for this third year after our daughter's murder. Every day I pray that I will be alive for the trial.

As a matter of fact, I am on the way to attend another court hearing in Charlotte tomorrow, June 12, 2008 to hear a motion by the defendant's new attorneys for authority to seek another bail hearing. Our family is shocked of this latest event particularly since we were informed that capital charged defendants are allowed only ONE bail hearing. Yesterday's check of Mecklenburg County criminal calendar on the court's web page shows that there are no Superior Court proceedings scheduled for June 12, 2008. However, that same web page check for individual defendant court hearings has listed since the end of May and confirmed by our D.A. liaison that there is a Superior Court hearing scheduled for the morning

of June 12, 2008. To attend this court hearing I will need to again take vacation from my job, leave on a red eye five hour flight from California to Charlotte and return late the next day if the court hearing is not continued. Fortunately, I was able to get a nonstop flight this time.

Now almost three years and no trial date in sight, unlike typical families saving for vacations we save for trips to the Charlotte court house. Yes, you do have a victim's assistance program and provide some compensation, but that compensation comes no where near the cost of a funeral and burial in the victim's home state where family and friends reside. What extra money we have is being used for trips from California to your Charlotte courts. There is also little travel compensation, only two trips at capped amounts. Nothing is available for the numerous flights, hotel accommodations, car rentals, meals or need to take time off from work. We are attempting to save money so that our entire remaining family may attend the entire trial when finally scheduled.

Obviously, the substantial delay in a trial date has taken an enormous emotional and financial effect on our entire family. We are still reluctant to pick up the telephone fearing that another court hearing being set for the very next day requiring us to drop everything if we want to attend.

Christy is and always will be a part of our family. would you abandon events that impact your own daughter? I doubt it and we never will. **Victims should have a right to a reasonably speedy trial just like defendants.** You need to do your part by finding the necessary financial funds to streamline the justice system and ensure that trial dates are not prolonged to what victims like us consider to be in perpetuity.

To ignore adequate funding for the courts at this time sends the wrong message to persons contemplating violent crimes that such crimes are condoned and acceptable in Charlotte.

One of your many victims -
Michael Galvin and Family.