

## Statement of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I will always think of February 13, 2019, as the night that changed our lives. It still hurts to remember the events of that night, and reliving them to write this statement has been extremely hard and emotional. Remembering our lives before that night, and comparing that to our lives today has been especially painful.

I remember how happy my daughter, [REDACTED], and I were after celebrating my birthday earlier that evening. [REDACTED] was only 15-years-old at the time. We were on our way home, still laughing. Looking back, I'm saddened to remember how comfortable we used to be speaking Spanish to each other in public. We felt safe because we live in a diverse community. Since the attack, [REDACTED] and I have avoided speaking Spanish in public because we fear being targeted. We also try to avoid the area where this all occurred, although it is difficult to avoid a place so close to our home.

This has been hard for us, physically, emotionally and financially. I missed many days of work after that night because I needed to take [REDACTED] to her therapy appointments and we had to have follow ups for our physical injuries. Seeing my daughter wearing a neck brace was extremely difficult. These were all difficult reminders of the attack, but I knew that tending to my daughter's trauma was very important.

[REDACTED] is the most important thing in the world to me. To see how she has lost so much of herself after this happened hurts me in ways that I cannot describe with words. My daughter was happy, she was friendly, and she was outgoing. I have watched my [REDACTED] wither into a sad, reclusive girl who avoids making new friends and struggles daily. For a long time, [REDACTED] had recurring nightmares of being attacked and still has flashbacks and feelings of guilt. She feels that it was her duty to protect me, and that she failed. It broke my heart to see her emotionally broken. It is very difficult to put on a brave face for my daughter and be strong for her, especially when I see her crying, because I too am still suffering and traumatized from what happened that night. I feel like I should have been able to protect her because a parent should always be able to protect their child. I feel a deep sense of shame because I was unable to defend my daughter and keep her safe. She was only 15 years-old at the time of the attack. She's a minor. I will never be able to understand why this happened to us and the images of what I saw that night and the hateful tone behind the words that I heard constantly replay in my mind.

My relationship with my daughter has been affected. I have become overly protective and call her frantically when she is late. The fear of [REDACTED] being hurt again is debilitating. I constantly worry about it.

To the women who did this, I would like to say: What you did was wrong. I hope that you never have to feel fear like I did, for my daughter's life. I hope that no one ever hurts someone you love in your presence. You will never understand how much you have changed our lives and made us feel unsafe in our own community. I truly hope you learn from this because you have taken so much from us. You took our confidence. You took our dignity. You took my daughter's innocence.

To the court, I would like to respectfully say: Since the attack, we have heard so many stories similar to ours from members of our community. These attacks happen more than we think. We were very lucky to have the support of the District Court's Office and Lawyers for Civil Rights by our side to help us navigate all this. Others were not as fortunate and they have kept quiet. My greatest fear is that there won't be justice and that my daughter will have to live with that for the rest of her life. Holding our attackers accountable is important to me and my daughter, but it is also important to our community. Thank you.