



HARFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

L. JESSE BANE
SHERIFF

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www.harfordsheriff.org

March 18, 2014

Trish and Shelly,

I would like to thank you for your time on Thursday, March 13, 2014, at Harford Community College. I am a Law Enforcement Officer, but more importantly I am the mom of a disabled child. I shouldn't say "child", my son Glenn is 23 now. Glenn was born with Prader-Willi Syndrome, but not diagnosed until he was about 9. He has a number of Autistic tendencies, so I'm familiar with a lot of the indicators. I'm very sorry it took a young man dying for agencies to realize the need. The responsibility is on us as First Responders and ignorance is no longer a viable excuse. I have attended several training seminars reference Autism and disability awareness, both as a mom and as an officer. I believe your training was applicable for First Responders, whether it be for Law Enforcement, EMS or Correctional Officers. You seem to understand that we have a job to do, but we can be more educated and aware. You didn't say, "Don't do this or that", you said, "when you do that, keep this in mind". That is exactly what we needed to hear.

I hope your schedules allow you to continue speaking at In-Service and entrance level training academy's. The new kids coming out on patrol can benefit greatly from your training. Recruits tend to be younger and may lack some of the life experience and common sense that help recognize traits of disabled persons. So keep up the good work!

Thank you again for your time,

Janelle Myers
Mom and Police Officer

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