

**Statement of Erika Lefevre on Behalf of the Lefevre Family**  
**January 23, 2012**

Last Friday, NYPD gave us documents and videos concerning the death of our son, Mathieu Lefevre. From these documents, it appears that a truck driver making a right turn without signaling knocked Mathieu from his bicycle, dragged him 40 feet, left him for dead, and then dragged his bicycle another 130 feet before depositing it and driving off. NYPD issued two traffic summonses to the driver, for failure to signal and for failure to exercise due care.

It is good to finally receive information about Mathieu's death, and for NYPD to have recognized these two wrongful acts by the driver. But we disagree with NYPD's decision to not press charges for fleeing the scene or for criminal negligence. Given the multiple impacts, the lengthy dragging, and the role of the truck's bumper and wheel immediately below the driver's seat in dealing the critical blows, the driver's claim that he was unaware of any collision shows at the very least a reckless disregard of facts that should have been plainly apparent to any driver. In the course of killing Mathieu, the driver committed multiple reckless acts, including driving on the wrong side of a two-way street as he dragged Mathieu to his death. This driver is reckless and dangerous, and should be held responsible for the harm he has caused.

We urge the Kings County District Attorney's office to carefully review this case and bring appropriate charges.

Unfortunately, the DA's review will be hampered by NYPD's failure to preserve evidence from the crash scene. We know there was blood evidence from the crash on the road and the truck. The location of the blood held important clues as to how the crash unfolded, and what was visible to the driver. NYPD failed to preserve this evidence, or even to take pictures or make written descriptions of it. In fact, no pictures of the crash scene were taken at all, because the investigators' camera was broken. Yet remarkably, the investigative file contains numerous photographs of our family and our lawyer. Apparently, NYPD cares more about investigating our family's efforts to get information from it, than about properly investigating Mathieu's death.

We are appalled by this and other plainly unprofessional aspects of the NYPD investigation. NYPD should take its responsibility to investigate crashes more seriously.

NYPD also should not have withheld this information from us for so long. It had all the evidence a month ago, and closed its investigation more than two weeks ago. During that time, our family endured a painful limbo, not knowing how Mathieu died or who was responsible. NYPD prolonged that pain for weeks, unnecessarily, after leaking misinformation about the crash to the media. In contrast, NYPD informed the driver promptly at the conclusion of its investigation. We can only wonder whether NYPD would have further delayed telling us, had it not been for the court deadline facing NYPD — today — to answer the Freedom of Information lawsuit they forced us to file. Victim's families' deserve more consideration. No one should be forced to sue the police to get timely, accurate information about the death of their loved ones.