



## YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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DAVID W. SUNDAY, JR.  
*District Attorney*

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*First Assistant District Attorney*

ART SMITH  
*Chief County Detective*

KYLE G. KING  
*Chief Administrator*

### **Outstanding Service as a Detective/Investigator**

This certificate is hereby presented to Officer Jared Auman and Sgt. Matthew Waltersdorff, who have provided exceptional service as a criminal investigator in the apprehension and/or successful prosecution of crimes occurring within the County of York.

On November 22, 2016, four-year-old Dakota Wright was tragically struck and killed at the 200 block of Princess Street in the Borough of Hanover. The driver of the vehicle failed to remain at the scene and attempt to render any aid to Dakota. The main identification of the hit-and-run driver was a description of a white work van with an orange or red ladder rack on top, as well as the driver being a white male with dark colored facial hair.

Multiple police departments immediately began searching for the white van and its driver. Those agencies included Hanover Borough Police Department, Penn Township Police Department, and West Manheim Police Department. While the immediate and diligent work of all law enforcement agencies on November 22<sup>nd</sup> helped develop leads, the investigation required much effort due to the difficulties present in this hit-and-run investigation.

The efforts of two officers stood out during the course of this case. First, Sgt. Matthew Waltersdorff was the first officer from Hanover Borough Police Department to arrive at the scene. As the first responder there, Sgt. Waltersdorff had the difficult position of attempting first aid to Dakota at the scene. Sgt. Waltersdorff gently cared for Dakota until the arrival of EMS personnel, carrying her and remaining with her in the back of the ambulance while on scene.

After this, Sgt. Waltersdorff immediately shifted into his role as a collision reconstruction. He processed the scene and analyzed the collision dynamics of this

terrible crash. Sgt. Waltersdorff did not end this role on the night of the crash. Instead, he continued to work with prosecutors and provide follow up assistance related to the collision reconstruction throughout the case. Most importantly, Sgt. Waltersdorff treated Dakota's family with a compassion to which her family showed gratitude from the time of the crash to the present.

Officer Jared Auman of the Hanover Borough Police Department also responded to the scene and became the lead investigator. Beyond his initial interviews, Officer Auman followed every lead available in the case. He analyzed hours of video footage, prison phone calls, and forensic reports in an attempt to determine who killed Dakota Wright.

In 2018, this investigation hit a critical point where the white work van was identified, but two individuals were possibly the driver. Officer Auman took great care to ensure that only the guilty party would be prosecuted, and the innocent would go free. After re-reviewing all evidence, Officer Auman obtained further key witness information that corroborated the statements of the innocent party and their eventual testimony against the guilty driver: Tony Shower. Additionally, Officer Auman uncovered evidence that showed Tony Shower's statements to police implicating his friend and owner of the van were false.

Following almost two years of diligent police investigation, Officer Auman filed felony hit-and-run and DUI charges against Tony Shower. Officer Auman worked closely with prosecutors up to and during trial to guarantee that the best possible case was presented in trial. These hours spent in preparation for trial were critical to a successful outcome in the case.

On November 22, 2019, a jury convicted Tony Shower of all charges, two years to the day after he killed Dakota Wright in this hit-and-run DUI crash. Tony Shower is currently serving an aggregate sentence of 6 to 15 years' incarceration. This justice for Dakota Wright was only obtainable through the commitment shown by Officer Jared Auman and Sgt. Matthew Waltersdorff.

As District Attorney of York County, I am honored to recognize you for the passion and dedication in which you display not only in your investigations, but to victims of crime.

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Dave Sunday  
District Attorney