

November 13, 2019

**To: Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin**

**From: Concerned Members of the Disability Community of California  
Regarding the Shooting of Kenneth French**

We, the undersigned, are persons with developmental differences in California, family members and advocates. We have followed the June 14, 2019 shooting at the Costco store in Corona, from its first reporting to the announcement on September 25 by your office that no charges would be brought against Officer Salvador Sanchez.

We want the family of Kenneth French to know that they are not alone. This shooting has attracted a good deal of attention and concern among the disability community throughout California and throughout the United States. It cannot be quickly forgotten.

We are committed to bringing greater transparency and accountability to the shooting. We also are committed to putting into place structures to prevent similar shootings in the future. No member of the disability community should need to worry that shoving someone will be met with immediate shooting, especially by a trained police officer.

The first media notice moved rapidly around the disability blogosphere in California. While there was alarm at the shooting, there was agreement that there should be no rush to judgment. In other high-profile police shootings, the initial reports have turned out to be inaccurate. Additional information might cast the shooting in a far different light. Further, our disability community has been a strong supporter of law enforcement in California, as law enforcement plays a key role in protecting our most vulnerable members.

However, as more facts came, the shooting became even more disturbing. By your office's account, Kenneth French's parents immediately tried to intervene and explain Kenneth's disability. Less than 5 seconds elapsed between the initial push and Officer Sanchez opening fire. Officer Sanchez fired not once, but 10 shots.

We respectfully request a meeting with representatives from the Inland Empire Developmental Disability Safety Task Force with your office in the near future to review the decision not to indict, and to discuss how shootings might be prevented in the future. You may contact Tamica Fouts-Rachal, Regional Manager of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, San Bernardino Office at [tamica.foots-rachal@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:tamica.foots-rachal@scdd.ca.gov)/ (909) 890-1259, or Beth Burt, Executive Director, Autism Society Inland Empire at [bburt@ieautism.org](mailto:bburt@ieautism.org)/(951) 532-4462.



Thank you,

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director, State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Art Santos, Executive Director, The Arc of Imperial Valley  
Beth Burt, Executive Director, Autism Society Inland Empire/President, Autism Society of California  
Camilla Bixler, AASCEND Co-Chair  
Douglas Moore, Executive Director, UDW/AFSCME Local 3930  
Dr. Nora Baladerian, Ph.D., Project Director, Disability Abuse Project  
Erin Stream, Executive Director, The Arc of Riverside  
Greg Wetmore, President/CEO, United Cerebral Palsy Inland Empire  
Greg Yates, ASSCEND Co-Chair  
Jacquie Dillard-Foss, Chief Executive Officer, Strategies to Empower People  
Jill Escher, President, Autism Society San Francisco/Bay Area  
Jordan Lindsey, Executive Director, The Arc of California  
Joshua Weitzman, Executive Director, Alpha Resource Center  
Juan Carlos Garcia, Managing Director, Special Needs Network  
Judy Mark, President, Disability Voices United and Autism Society Los Angeles  
Karen Gregorius, Executive Director, The Arc of Amador and Calaveras Counties  
Kristie Sepulveda-Burchit, Executive Director, Educate Advocate and Empower Family California  
Leigh Ann Davis, Director, National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability/Criminal Justice Initiatives  
Mark Melanson, Executive Director, California Supported Living Network  
Marty Omoto, Executive Director, California Disability Action Network  
Melody Amaral, Chief Executive Officer, The Wylie Center  
Michael Bernick, Parent and ASSCEND Board Member  
Teresa Anderson, Public Policy Director, The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

*INDIVIDUALS – Most who reside in the Inland Empire*

*Adrienne Alicia*  
*Agripina Neubauer, Mother of two children with autism*  
*Albert Solorzano, Parent of Brandon Solorzano, child with Autism*  
*Alesia Garrett, Mother*  
*Alexandria Kabia*  
*Alma Rodriguez, Riverside Regional coordinator*  
*Amy Putnam, Parent*  
*Amy Robyn, Parent*  
*Ana Reyes, Mother*  
*Andy Trujillo, Parent*  
*Anel Ibarra, parent*  
*Angela Siliezarâ, Parent of autistic adult*  
*Annel Marqueno, Attendant Speedwash*  
*Anthony Sciortino, grandfather*  
*Arnold Davis, Medical Transportation Technician*  
*Barbara Duran, Parent*  
*Briseida Ramirez, Professor*  
*Carla Wickey, Caretaker*

*Carlos Martinez*  
*Carmen King*  
*Carolynn Chatman, Director of Community Employment Services EXCEED*  
*Catalina Castillo, parent*  
*Catherine Kinzey*  
*Cathy Gallicano, Caregiver of daughter with severe autism (non-verbal)*  
*Christina Garcia*  
*Christine Stachurski*  
*Cristal Spears, Parent of child with Autism*  
*Cynthia Estrada*  
*Darla Johnson*  
*DENISE WOOLSEY, Parent of Adult with Autism*  
*Desiree Musngi, Childcare Provider*  
*Diana Moore, Parent*  
*Diana Robertson-Ramos, Facilitator, High Desert Autism Support Group*  
*Donna Candelas Parent*  
*Dr. Louis Vismara, Parent*  
*Dwanna Williams, clerical assistant courtw*  
*Elisabeth Estes, grandparent*  
*Elizabeth Davis, Credit Union Executive Assistant*  
*Erania Martin-Lang, Program Manager, Easterseals Southern California*  
*Erica Leal, Care giver*  
*Erin Allen, Contracts Kana Pipeline Inc*  
*Eunice Garcia, Parent*  
*Everardo Gonzalez*  
*Faith Butterfield, Animator*  
*Flora Martinez, Advocate, Inland Empire Latino Coalition*  
*Frinee Mayagoitia, Parent*  
*Ginger Yepes,*  
*Gladys Villagrana*  
*Glorious Young Caregiver of child with autism*  
*Griselda Gonzalez, Mother of children with Autism, Romero Gonzalez*  
*Guadalupe Diaz, OAI, Riverside County*  
*Gustavo Garcia Jr, GWA, Home Depot RDC*  
*Holly Cancino, Dispatcher for auto transport*  
*Irma P*  
*Ivette Ramirez Windsor*  
*Jeanette Ramos, Mother*  
*Jennifer Lewis*  
*Jenny Hua, Parent of Vincent Nguyen who has autism*  
*Jessica Christman*  
*Jessica Munoz, Mother of a person with autism*  
*Jessie Schafer, retired, Sacramento County*  
*Joe Veltri, Parent of young man on the autism spectrum*  
*John Fletcher, Father of special needs child*  
*Jose Garcia, father of Enrique Garcia autistic*  
*Juanita Hernandez, Affiliate Administrator, Coachella Valley Autism Society*  
*Julie Price, parent*

*Kaitlyn Rojas, Child Advocate Counselor, Alba Care Services Inc*  
*Karen Aceves, Mother*  
*Karen Bradstreet*  
*Karen Pender, retired teacher*  
*Karyl Eugene, Retired*  
*Kathy Lee Martinez, Social Work Intern Carolyn E. Wylie Center*  
*Kellee Smith, Mortgage Underwriter*  
*Kristen Rusten, Caregiver, IHSS San Bernardino*  
*Lana Anders, Grandparent*  
*Laura Kamiyama*  
*Laura Schley, home care provider, IHSS*  
*Liliana Alvarado, Parent*  
*Lisa Dryan, Parent*  
*Lisa Edmond, Parent*  
*Lisa Hernandez, School Program Technician, Colton School District,*  
*Lisa Rivera, Mother of a child living with Autism*  
*Lucy Campos*  
*Lucy Curiel, Parent of Brandon Solorzano, child with Autism*  
*Lynda Steiner, small Business owner*  
*M Posada, Parent*  
*Marcelina Ramirez*  
*Marcia Eichelberger, Past President Autism Society of California and parent, mardere58@gmail.com*  
*Marely Bojorquez, Parent*  
*Maren Chediak, parent,*  
*Margaita Perez, In home care giver*  
*Maria Rascon, Parent of Maya Rascon- child with Autism*  
*Maria Wright*  
*Mariah Hyder, Bank teller Wells Fargo*  
*Maricruz Andrio*  
*Marissa Rodriguez, Caregiver Ihss*  
*Martha Delgado, Grandmother*  
*Matthew Wickey, Student and person on the spectrum*  
*May Calaoagan, CLS LabCorp*  
*Melissa Franco, Mother of daughter with autism*  
*Michael Santibanez, person on the spectrum*  
*Michele Carlzen*  
*Michele Villa, Parent to Autistic Person*  
*Mireya Soto-Acalco*  
*Miriam Ness, Homemaker*  
*Molly Galli, IHSS provider, Riverside County IHSS*  
*Monique Beck, Caregiver Ihss*  
*Monique Rodriguez, EPM I*  
*Nancy Knight*  
*Nanice Ahmed, Parent*  
*Nicole Aptekar, Parent*  
*Nicole Guthrie*  
*Olivia Finley, parent*  
*Pamela Hamilton, Parent*

*Pamela Pagan, Sr. Office Admin*  
*Patricia Cardenas*  
*Patricia Hogge, Mother to Charles BLAYLOCK with Autism*  
*Patricia Phoonphiphatana, Parent*  
*Paula Sciortino, grandparent*  
*Paymaan Shafai, Project Manager*  
*Priscilla Molina, Caregiver IHSS*  
*Rachel Mataiumu, Board Member, Unity Tree*  
*Randa Fletcher, Caregiver*  
*Raul Rocha*  
*Rebecca Gutierrez*  
*Rebecca Wilkins*  
*Regina Bennett, Caretaker of a young adult with autism, IHSS*  
*Renee Noflin*  
*Renee Noflin, Parent of Special Needs Child*  
*Renee Roberts*  
*Rita Ramirez, Customer service Kaiser*  
*Robert Lopez*  
*Roger Powell, Instructional Assistant- Autism, Moreno Valley Unified school district*  
*Roman Rocha*  
*Ros Middleton, Grandparent of young adult w/autism*  
*Rudy Cerna, Engineer*  
*Saleem Afzali*  
*Samantha Sanchez, Caregiver IHSS*  
*Shannan Ash, Mother/Educator*  
*Shannon Moraga, Caretaker IHSS*  
*Sharon Santibanez, parent*  
*Sheldon Peterson, parent with autistic spectrum son*  
*Sherril Tinder, parent of autistic son*  
*Sonya Morgan, Parent of a child with Autism*  
*Stacey Puentes*  
*Stella Rocha*  
*Steven Weiss, Line Worker*  
*Sue Shahtout*  
*Suzanne Melrose, parent of Ariane, an autistic young woman*  
*Sydney Edmond, Person with autism*  
*TERESSA Borrayo, Program supervisor Bright Horizons*  
*Theresa McFarland, retired educator*  
*Tina Hoff, Retired*  
*Tina Pattison, Parent*  
*Tyrone Spears, Chief Risk Officer CITY OF LOS ANGELES*  
*Veronica Garcia, Parent*  
*Vicki Smith Prigmore*  
*Vickie Zibrida, Caregiver IHSS*  
*Victoria Martelli*  
*Yvette Espinoza, Care giver IHSS*