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STATEMENT OF LAIAH ZUNIGA

HELLO. MY NAME IS LAIAH ZUNIGA AND I'M A CUBS FAN. I'LL ALWAYS BE A CUBS FAN. I GREW UP IN THE BERWYN-CICERO AREA AND THEN MOVED TO CHICAGO AS A YOUNG ADULT. I HAD BEEN TO SEVERAL CUBS GAMES OVER THE YEARS BUT ALWAYS SAT IN THE UPPER DECK SEATS. I WAS SO EXCITED WHEN I WAS GIVEN TWO TICKETS TO THE AUGUST 27, 2018 GAME AGAINST THE NEW YORK METS BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I WAS SITTING JUST A FEW ROWS UP FROM THE FIELD. MY FRIEND AND I WERE SITTING ALONG THE THIRD BASE LINE EATING FOOD WHEN A FOUL BALL HIT ME IN THE FIFTH INNING.

THE BLOW KNOCKED ME UNCONSCIOUS AND WHEN I AWOKE MY BEEF SANDWICH WAS THE ONLY THING I HAD TO CATCH THE WATERFALL OF BLOOD RUNNING DOWN BY FACE. I WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE STADIUM IN AN AMBULANCE AND HAD TO STAY AT THE HOSPITAL FOR SEVERAL DAYS. I SUFFERED A SPIDER FRACTURE UNDER BOTH OF MY EYES AND I WAS TOLD TO SEE A SPECIALIST BECAUSE THEY SEE SOME PERIPHERAL VISION LOSS. I HAVE FREQUENT BLOODY NOSES TO THIS DAY, AND MY TASTE AND SMELL HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY AFFECTED. I WAS HIT SO HARD MY TEETH WERE DETACHED FROM THEIR NERVES AND I HAD TO HAVE EXTENSIVE DENTAL WORK DONE AND EVEN THEN I STILL LOST A FEW TEETH IN THE PROCESS AND AM STILL LOSING THEM TODAY.

I STILL SUFFER FROM ANXIETY FROM ALL THAT HAPPENED TO ME AND AS MUCH AS I AM A CUBS FAN, I WOULD NEVER SIT IN LOWER LEVEL SEATS AGAIN. I THINK THAT THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME IF MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HAD INSTITUTED RULES FOR MORE NETTING AROUND THE STADIUM. I WAS THERE TO DO WHAT EVERY BASEBALL FAN DOES – TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. I NEVER THOUGHT A BALL WOULD COME AT ME BECAUSE I THOUGHT I WAS SITTING IN A SAFE AREA. I COULD SEE THE NETTING ENDED JUST A FEW ROWS AWAY, BUT OBVIOUSLY I FOUND OUT THAT MY UNPROTECTED SEAT ALSO WAS SUBJECT TO AN ANGLE THAT COULD BE HIT BY A FOUL BALL. MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT AND SHOULD HAVE PROTECTED ME.

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