

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL LACSON

My name is Mike Lacson, and I'm the father of Marin Elizabeth Lacson. On the morning of January 25, 2024, Marin was on her way to school when she was struck and killed by a train at the Hough Street railroad crossing in the heart of the Village of Barrington, Illinois. Her death was preventable. Unlike other nearby railroad crossings, this crossing lacked pedestrian gates and other pedestrian warnings which would have saved my daughter's life.

As we learn more details about Marin's death, we are truly shocked and saddened by the lack of action by those responsible for the safety of our community. It is utterly distressing that basic safety measures were ignored for years and continue to be ignored. It is even more troubling to learn that no agency or company ever performed any pedestrian safety studies for this crossing.

Marin's death will not be in vain. My family is committed to making a difference to prevent something like this from ever happening again. So far, those responsible for addressing the community's safety have not held themselves accountable. The railroad companies have done nothing to improve safety at this railroad crossing since this tragedy. Our elected officials, who were supposed to serve as our voice to address hazardous situations like the one that confronted my daughter have either remained silent or have provided empty rhetoric. More importantly, these officials have not taken any action to address the problems that claimed my daughter's life and those safety concerns continue to be disregarded. We have lost all trust and confidence in Barrington's elected leadership to take necessary action to increase public safety and hold the railroad companies accountable. We urge the community to hold these railroad companies responsible as well as to hold the elected officials of the Village of Barrington responsible for their past and continued failures regarding the community's welfare near our railroad crossings.

Over the past several months since Marin's death, my entire family has struggled to come to terms with the senselessness of her death. Marin was a wonderful person with a bright future ahead of her. Our family has been devastated. Going forward, we will push for change to prevent any similar tragedies from occurring in the future, and we will continue fighting to make a difference in Marin's name. We are grateful for the outpouring of support to our family, and we will forever keep Marin in our hearts.