

Leslie Poynter Dixon  
Former Van Zandt County Criminal District Attorney

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To the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles,

My name is Leslie Poynter Dixon, and I am the former Criminal District Attorney for Van Zandt County. I am writing you this letter on behalf of Candice Rachell Anderson, a woman who was indicted for intoxication manslaughter during my time at the Van Zandt County Criminal District Attorney's office. Ms. Anderson was subsequently placed on community supervision for the offense of criminally negligent homicide as a lesser included charge.

Ms. Anderson was driving northbound on County Road 4106 with her fiancé, Gene Erickson. The investigating trooper noted that Ms. Anderson had veered off the roadway. Since there was no other way to explain the situation or the cause of the accident, the investigation concluded that this accident was due to Ms. Anderson's intoxication. Her fiancé died as a result of the crash.

At the time, unbeknownst to Ms. Anderson or my office, there were issues regarding her 2004 Saturn Ion. These issues were known to General Motors at the time of Ms. Anderson's prosecution, but were never brought to her, mine, or my office's attention by GM. I believe these issues caused her vehicle to seize up, locking her steering and making any control of her vehicle impossible. Based upon what I now know, these issues were the direct cause of the loss of control of her vehicle. After learning of this information, it is my opinion that no action or omission of Ms. Anderson was the cause of the accident that led to her criminal charges. Had I known at the time that GM knew of these issues and has since admitted to such, I do not believe the Grand Jury would have indicted her for intoxication manslaughter.

Ms. Anderson suffered and continues to suffer immensely due to the criminal prosecution she went through. Had I had all of the evidence before me regarding GM's ignition switch and the fact that GM counts the death of Mr. Erickson as one of the 13 resulting from the defective GM vehicle, I would have recommended a no-bill to the Grand Jury and dismissed the prosecution of Ms. Anderson. Sadly, prior to knowing of the faulty ignition switch in her vehicle, Ms. Anderson had no choice but to believe that she was the cause of the death of her fiancé. This, in and of itself, is significant punishment.

I feel it is important that, at this point, we come together to do whatever we can to alleviate any further damage and pain that this horrific tragedy caused her. I would like for her to be able to move on with her life and would like to assist her in that endeavor in whatever way possible.



For these reasons, I would ask that you recommend to Governor Perry that Ms. Anderson's deferred adjudication sentencing that occurred on October 4, 2007 be pardoned.

Sincerely,

  
Leslie Poynter Dixon