

Dear Judge, Your Honor,

My name is Ondelee Perteet. On Sept 5th 2009 my life was forever changed. I was shot in the face and the bullet traveled through my jaw, breaking two bones in my neck and severing my spine thus rendering me a quadriplegic, paralyzed from my neck down. Your Honor, you don't know how difficult it is laying in a hospital bed flat on your back, not being able to move anything. Not your arms not your legs, barely being able to breathe, not knowing if you'll survive, and if you do, how life is going to be for you. The thought of being helpless, not understanding what your body is going through or going to go through is indescribable. Your Honor, this is the most difficult thing I've ever had to deal with, I'm a kid, at least I was; now I have to be a grown man at a very young age. I should be focusing on school, playing basketball, football or swimming, chasing girls, that's what 14 years old do. Your Honor I was on the Orr Academy swim team, my Mom says I may have been the next Michael Phelps, I was a great swimmer. That was all taken away from me by Robert Sansberry. Who would have thought that someone would shoot me? I was by no means an angel, but I tried to live by the code and morals. My Mom told me "don't get involved with gangs, don't sell drugs, don't hang on the street corners, don't play with guns and don't start fights, but defend yourself, and of course I have had fights. I'm a typical 14 year old, at least I was before Sept 5th, after that day I grew up quickly. I woke up hooked up to all these machines, I didn't understand what was going on, I had a catheter and I was wearing a diaper? Your Honor, all I could do is cry, tears rolled down the side of my face and I couldn't even wipe them off, my Mom had to wipe them off for me. I couldn't move my arms, Oh my God, I couldn't move my legs. I remember My Mom, My Sisters, My Grandma, My Aunties,

My Uncles and My Cousins, everyone was crying. I knew it was bad, my Mom was rubbing my head, she was crying. In my very weak voice, I could barely a whisper, I asked "I'm not going to be able to walk am I?" She just broke down and said the doctors say the bullet broke two bones in your neck and severed your spine, they say you won't ever move your arms and legs again but it's ok ,we can get through this, they are not God we have faith and we believe in God, He is the ultimate healer, He has the final decision we're going to keep praying and keep the faith and work really hard. Your Honor I have faith, and my mom never left my side through all the pain, hurt and anger I still kept a smile on my face my mom says my smile is my faith! I was in a superman wheelchair a neck brace, back in diapers. I am unable to use the bathroom on my own without a suppository, or a catheter and a bag. I ask that you try to imagine how physically and emotionally uncomfortable and embarrassing this can be. All of the different medications I was on caused me to basically be doped up all the time. I suffer from regular urinary track infections which cause great discomfort and are embarrassing, the smell, and people have commented on this in public. My mom having to speak up and advocate for me, educating people in public, saying I wasn't born like this, this is what gun violence looks like and this is what his body is going through! I also had to deal with the fact that somebody tried to kill me and that somebody was Mr. Sansberry. It's crazy I don't even know him I'm not from that neighborhood I'm not a gangbanger. Because of a mere altercation that was verbal and not physical? Because you were asked to leave by my sisters, because your feelings were hurt, because you were embarrassed in front of your buddies you leave, go get a gun to prove you are the big man and you come back and shoot me in my face? Not my arm, not my foot, not my leg but my face? My face? Do you know how close my jaw is to my head? A gun. I didn't even have a stick in my hand and had already been beaten

by a gang of guys; you all but stalked me out there to shoot me. I have never had to fight anyone with a weapon and my heart won't let me pull a gun on anyone. I don't have enough hate to shoot a person. My mom taught me that everyone has the right to live, you don't know what damage a bullet is going to do. I always heard about gun violence but never thought I would be living as a victim! I was so distraught by Mr Sansberry's actions I hated him. Your Honor, such a cowardly move, he is not a good person and now I'm not only worried about myself I'm worried about the safety of the people of the community in which he lives. My sister and my nephews live in that area. I want him off the streets so that he doesn't hurt anyone else or put any one else in my situation or possibly kill someone. Your Honor I want justice for me. I'm glad that I have a mother willing to fight for my justice and a jury willing to give me my justice. My mom told me we couldn't harbor hate, we had to forgive Mr. Sansberry because harboring hate we couldn't move forward, we couldn't heal or get to the place we needed to be, so I have forgiven Mr. Sansberry and grasping tightly on to my faith and my hard work and the help of my family members I am healing. I can move my neck. I was right handed thank God he gave me use of my left hand. I still can't really control my fingers and I'm praying to regain use of my right hand, things are limited as to what I can do. I feel like a baby all over again. I regained use of my legs and am able to take steps on a walker and a quad cane. My bladder is back to normal so no more catheter. I still suffer from horrible UTI's. I guess that's just part of the injury. I still suffer from spasms, my whole body jerks so hard it cuts my breath off. I still remain in diapers because I sometimes have accidents. It is so horrible and humiliating when I get a suppository, thank God for caring moms. Yes I am blessed against all odds to be making such a remarkable recovery. Channel 7 covers all of my stories and my progress. I'm always smiling for the cameras but don't

get it twisted I am in pain every day and have been for over two years. There are parts of my body I can't even feel a thing, parts of my body I can't move, my body temperature is so different than it used to be, my appetite is different, the aches and the pains I suffer, this is not a walk in the park by no means, every day is a struggle. I require a lot of help, my mom has to dress me but I have a real good family that keeps me positive and motivated. I understand life will never be as it was. I have been a man since the age of 14. My youth, well let's just say I was robbed of that, but your Honor I have taken a negative and am trying to turn it into a positive. I speak out to my fellow peers educating them on gun violence and how it affects people's lives I was even awarded ambassador of peace your Honor. Mr. Sansberry's actions even caused our family to be homeless for almost a year; we had to move in with family members thus separating me from my sisters. They had to move in with other family members because I couldn't get to the second floor of our own apartment building. It was necessary to move in with my aunt or go to homeless shelter until my mom found us a wheelchair accessible place. Thank God for the Victim Witness Relocation Unit, with their help, we were able to move to a new neighborhood. My family is now back together under one roof. My mom has not been able to work since I got shot because she cares for me 24/7. I remember on pay days she used to show me at least \$800 every two weeks. She would say this is what a working a job gets you. I don't have to worry about looking over my shoulder or the Police, it's my money, I worked for it, I earned it and some day you will too. Now she complains about bills every day even though our rent is low. The money we receive from disability does not cover all of our needs; it's definitely not the every two week pay check. Sometimes I feel like it's my fault, but mom lets me know it's not. Judge, Your Honor, I have been in therapy for two years and by no means is

it easy. My body is sore and aches after every session putting me in more pain. I hear my mom talking; I wonder how much that's costing the state? Therapy ended for me in late November now my mom works with me at home, I've been told that if I continue to progress I could possibly return. Your Honor, Mr. Sansberry caused me great bodily harm, so my medical bills will continue to rise, my prognosis is that I will most likely always be in a wheelchair, so Your Honor I ask you to sentence Mr. Sansberry accordingly. I don't think Mr. Sansberry has any remorse for what he did to me nor what he has put my entire family through. This was devastating and a horrible senseless act and I got a life sentence in a wheelchair now. I ask you Judge Your Honor what sentence Mr. Sansberry will receive. We all have to be held accountable for our actions I would expect no less for myself had I been the shooter and he was in a wheelchair with the same limitations. I now ask please keep in mind Judge, my life is forever changed.

Ondelee Perteet
Detreena Perteet
Perteet Family