

We extend our gratitude to Sheriff Dave Walcher, and all of his staff involved in this investigation, for completing this report with such professionalism, and for being so thoughtful and considerate of our family throughout the entire process. Sheriff Walcher personally kept our family apprised of the status of the investigation for the past 10 months, even visiting us in our home on a number of occasions. Sheriff Walcher and his staff have consistently demonstrated a commitment to ensuring the report was completed comprehensively and as accurately as possible, while also showing a sense of urgency at every step along the way. Arapahoe County is indeed fortunate to have such a professional, yet caring leader at the helm of its sheriff's office.

Next, we'd like the community to know that our family is as committed to forgiveness now as we were on January 1, and we invite you again to join us in doing whatever is within your power to ensure that our community remains rooted in compassion. This crime report shows that Karl Pierson was an adolescent that allowed himself to become filled with confusion and darkness, and he failed to see any love around him or any hope for the future. The result was a terrible tragedy for all of us -- not only our family, but for all the kids and staff at Arapahoe High School, our entire community, the State of Colorado, the Pierson family, and all of the people across the country and around the world that have sent us their condolences and have held us up in their thoughts and prayers.

As we all consider this report in greater detail, our family wishes to ask school officials and other stakeholders – particularly our State legislators – to thoughtfully and expeditiously explore how to create positive and safe school climates that are better prepared to prevent and change inappropriate behaviors, as well as better address the emotional and psychological needs of adolescents in our schools. The people of Colorado deserve more than to have to sit idly waiting for the next student in imminent crisis to harm or kill another person or themselves. As a caring and attentive community, we should be committed to meeting the needs of all students to help them learn how to negotiate life's difficulties and reach their full potential.

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- Michael and Desiree Davis