

Mother wants at-fault driver to get tattoo of son killed in crash

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A mother distraught over the death of her son last year in a crash caused by an off-duty Detroit police officer said she “would love” the ex-cop to tattoo her son’s name and date of death on his hand as a constant reminder of what he did.

Kelly Newman, mother of Evan Newman of St. Clair Shores, who died last August at 27, spoke Wednesday at the sentencing of Corey S. Jones of Roseville for driving through a red light on 12 Mile Road at Interstate 94 and colliding with a motorcycle driven by Newman, who was killed in the crash.

Jones, 29, was sentenced by Judge Joseph Boedeker of 39th District Court in Roseville to 90 days in jail and two years probation after Jones pleaded guilty to moving violation causing death, a misdemeanor.

“I personally ask the court for the following — and I know this will never happen but I’m going to ask it anyway,” a tearful, a visibly upset Newman told the judge. “I would love a tattoo of Evan’s full name on your hand with his date of death so you are always reminded of what you did.”

She said also would like for his driver’s license to be permanently revoked, him banned from owning a gun, and for him to never have any more children; he has a daughter.

The crash took place at about 10:30 p.m. last Aug. 16 when a 2017 black Jeep Cherokee driven by Jones on the westbound Interstate 94 entrance ramp went through a red light at 12 Mile Road and collided with a 2023 white Honda motorcycle driven by Newman, who was pronounced dead at the scene. Video indicates Jones initially stopped at the red light but then proceeded to go through it and collided with Newman’s motorcycle.

A police report says Jones told an officer “his vehicle displayed a malfunction which caused him to travel through the red traffic light.”

Kelly Newman criticized Roseville police for failing to test Jones for the potential presence of alcohol or drugs. There was no evidence to indicate he was under the influence.

Jones, who lived on Little Mack Avenue near 13 Mile Road, appeared to be on his way to work.

Newman said it isn’t fair Jones was only charged with a misdemeanor for causing a death.

“It is sickening and unfathomable to me and our family that this intentional murder is only seen as a misdemeanor,” with a maximum penalty of one year in jail, she said. “Meanwhile, Evan Alexander Newman and his whole family and all of his friends got the death sentence.”

When Jones was charged in February, Macomb County Prosecutor Peter Lucido said: “Our Major Crimes Unit thoroughly reviewed this matter, and the charge reflects the appropriate course of justice under the law,” Lucido says in the second release. “However, no legal outcome can ever replace a loved one. If you believe stricter penalties are necessary to prevent future tragedies, we encourage you to contact your legislators and advocate for change.”

Kelly Newman described the devastating impact on her.

“My soul was crushed and lost on August 16th, 2024,” she said. “It will never be found or put back together in my lifetime.”

Even Evan Newman’s dog, “Coda,” has been impacted by his loss, she said.

Also speaking was Newman’s father and brother, J. Mark Newman and Tyler Newman, respectively, who along with Kelly Newman described an outgoing young man who was on his way to becoming a full-fledged electrician, loved being with family and friends, and enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating and riding his motorcycle.

“He had a zesty passion for life,” Kelly Newman said.

J. Mark Newman held up a large framed memorial collage of photos of his son.

“He was such a good guy,” he said. “He loved the water. He loved boats.”

Tyler Newman said he lost his only sibling.

“I was robbed of a life with him,” he said. “He would be here today if someone had simply stopped at the light.”

Tyler said he played cards with his brother the day of his death and was present hours later when his parents were informed.

"The hysterical screams of my parents will haunt me forever," he said.

Newman's estate received a \$250,000 payout from an insurance company.

Jones, who served six years in the Navy, apologized and said he is trying to contribute to the community for his actions. He is no longer a police officer but said he is trying to join the U.S. Border Patrol.

"I think about him all of the time," he said of Evan Newman in court.

Jones, who was free on a personal bond, was immediately taken into custody.