



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

October 12, 2025

District Attorney Francis Chardo
Dauphin County Courthouse, 2nd Floor
101 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

District Attorney Chardo:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer you and the court some insights into the impact the arson attack of April 13, 2025, has had on us and our family.

Time is now separated between *before* the fire and *after* the fire. Prior to the attack, we were mindful that we were targets because of the public roles we are honored to hold, however, we felt a sense of protection from those threats due to the state police presence in our lives. We felt especially safe at the Governor's Residence. A violation of that protection, particularly of the magnitude of the arson attack, was unthinkable and left us feeling exposed in ways we could not have imagined.

In the aftermath of the attack, we were left to confront a sadness and feelings of vulnerability that we could not shake. It was particularly difficult because this attack happened in the place where we should have been the safest, where we have the most protection. Once it happened there, we felt unsafe everywhere.

The arson attack left all of us with a nagging sense of fear and anxiety that manifests itself in different ways for different members of our family—some have difficulty sleeping through the night, some are fearful at night to walk around the house, some worry in public about who is lurking around the corner. Now, at the Governor's Residence and our family home, we consider the dangers of an attack from different places, angles and people. It's a fear and anxiety that we are learning to live with but that we expect to carry with us for a lifetime.

As parents, the attack created many new challenges and forced us to have to answer difficult questions from our children, nieces and nephews about whether or not they are safe if we go somewhere, in our homes, or at their schools. They worry about our safety when we are out doing our work. We try to comfort them and let them know we're protected but we can tell the experience has added stress to their daily lives.

While we are mindful of the risks associated with holding public office in today's world, that risk in many ways was theoretical—not reality until the early morning

hours of April 13. We managed to emotionally handle knowing that there were people who *thought* about doing us harm, but that's been far more difficult since it's become a reality. Now, we wonder and explore what-ifs in our minds. We love serving Pennsylvania, and now, when we are to participate in an event, visit a community or engage with others, we do so with an added level of pressure and concern for safety.

When we walk through the Residence, we often think of where the defendant roamed. The doors he tried to break through that would have led to where we were sleeping. The hammer he wielded that he wanted to use to do harm to us. We also see the effects of his crimes, in the extraordinary scope of the damage he inflicted on the Residence. The burden of the clean up and rebuild was enormous. The subsequent security changes and construction that is still going on is a constant visual reminder of what happened and that our personal safety is not assured. His crimes also caused massive disruption in our lives and in the lives of the people who we are privileged to know and work with at the Residence.

While we have been lifted up and strengthened by the prayers and well wishes of so many Pennsylvanians, there is no doubt that the attack left our family shaken, feeling vulnerable and forced to confront the reality that our desire to do public service put our children's lives at risk. We carry with us an enormous sense of guilt for putting our children in such a precarious situation.

We hope and pray that with time, this will all heal. We will not be deterred from our work, but we are also not without scars from this attack.



Josh Shapiro



Lori Shapiro