

PRESS STATEMENT - TIM DOLLAR

September 3, 2014

On March 22, 2013, the Bresette family endured a devastating tragedy and ten year old Luke Bresette lost his life. In June of last year, a lawsuit was filed which sought to determine the truth and assign responsibility. I am pleased to report today that those goals have been achieved and the lawsuit has been settled.

The terms of the settlement, by agreement and out of respect for the privacy of the family are confidential. I can say that the amount of compensation paid is reasonable and commensurate with the losses suffered by the family. I can also say that each defendant has acknowledged that mistakes were made and have accepted responsibility for their respective roles that contributed to the tragedy. More importantly, I am pleased to report that each defendant has taken specific steps to analyze the failures that may have occurred and have agreed to make concrete changes to ensure that similar tragedies are avoided in the future.

Additionally, I am pleased to report that the Birmingham Airport Authority has graciously offered to commission the creation of a memorial likeness of Luke to be placed at the airport. It is not intended as a reminder of the tragedy, but rather a celebration of a young life and a reminder to all of the need to treasure each day with one another.

I wish to express my appreciation to Judge Tom King, Jr. for presiding over this litigation. His attention to this matter and sound rulings assisted all parties in arriving at this result. He is a testament to the value of an independent and impartial judiciary.

I want to thank our legal team for their hard work including most notably my Alabama counsel Jeff Friedman without whom these results would not be possible. But

I also want to express appreciation to the Brasfield and Gorrie/Bloc team and their counsel, as well as counsel for the other defendants. At all times, they conducted themselves professionally and ethically and cooperated with us throughout the investigation to determine the truth. It has been clear throughout this process that they remained committed to reaching a resolution that was in the best interests of all concerned, including the community of Birmingham.

In light of the criticism that is often levied at our system of civil justice, this case is proof that while flawed at times, the system can and does work.