

Statement of Vicki Drews

Nearly two years ago to the day, our son Alec sustained injuries when he was crushed by a building owned by the Chicago Cubs organization. He fought to live for the next 8 days, but in ten days we mark 2 years from the day that he died. Every day we live with unimaginable sadness and grief. We're here today on behalf Alec, because we believe that his death was preventable and caused by the negligence and failure of the owners to maintain their building to an acceptably safe standard. Alec had no reason to believe that this building wasn't safe. It was used by the multitude of Cubs fans... how could it not be safe? Alec was a great person. He was a student at the Illinois Institute of Art in Chicago with a promising career-using his artistic talents. He shared a relationship with us that we can't replace. He made us proud in everything that he did and he had so many friends who loved him. He didn't deserve to die as he did.

We bring this lawsuit today because we want to make sure that the owners of this property, and maybe others, take proper precautions to protect those who come in contact every day. The Chicago Cubs have a public obligation to protect the safety of the millions of people who visit their venues every year. People like our Alec. His death can't be in vain. We know how many people in Chicago love the Cubs, as I guess we always have, but all of that love combined comes nowhere near the love that we had for Alec.

We know that nothing can bring him back, but the civil justice system is about accountability. It is about responsibility, and just as athletes have had to own up to some of their mistakes, we're asking the owners of the property here to own up to their mistake. It was a terrible mistake that, if it had not been made, could have prevented a death. if they had they just cordoned off the area or demolished the building like they intended to do, Alec would still be alive. Even a warning sign might have been a signal to people like Alec of the danger that was there. Instead, we find ourselves here seeking justice for his unnecessary death.