

I'm Glenn Funk, I'm the district attorney of Nashville. In regards to this case, Daniel Hambrick did not need to die. Andrew Delke was not justified in killing Daniel Hambrick. Ms. Hambrick's emotions are real. They're legitimate. I think we should all understand that no one should lose a child, especially not at the hands of the police officer that's been sworn to protect and serve the community. Never in Nashville has an officer been indicted for first-degree murder. Never in Nashville has an officer been convicted of any form of homicide. This case is significant. A lot of places around the country it's rare to see an officer charged, it's even more rare to see an officer convicted. It's even more rare to see an officer plead guilty and go into custody from the courtroom. This has been a hard case, for three years we have done nothing but work really hard to support Daniel Hambrick and victims of violent crime. It's been a long three-year struggle and this has never been a slam dunk case or murder prosecution.

Daniel Hambrick — a couple of considerations. Daniel Hamrick did in fact, have a gun and he was carrying it in his hand. That does not mean that an officer has a right to shoot him in the back when the man's just running away. Daniel Hambrick did not ever threaten Andrew Delke. He never tried to shoot Andrew Delke. He just tried to run away. But the fact that he had that gun in his hand, even though I don't think it meant that Andrew Delke had a right to shoot or killed Daniel Hambrick, the reality is that would have made it a much more difficult case to get 12 jurors to unanimously believe that this was a murder case.

The fact of the matter is Andrew Delke did tell Daniel Hambrick to stop and warn him that if he didn't stop, he would shoot him. Just because a man who's running doesn't stop does not actually give police a justification to shoot him in the back while they're running away. But the fact that those statements were made, would make it harder to get 12 jurors from this community to all unanimously decide to bring a murder conviction. We tried this case, we're ready to try this case. We've been ready. We've been working for three years to get this case ready. But what would the result of the case be? There was a very large percentage it would have been a hung jury. In fact, in talking to Chief Drake yesterday, his reaction was that he thought there was a 90% chance it would be a hung jury and it might hang along racial lines. Members of my office on the trial team acknowledged that there was well over a 50% chance that this jury would hang. And no verdict, no judgment, no accountability — the emotion that we saw in this courtroom today would have been played out 100 fold if there'd been no accountability in this case.

We talked about earlier, there's never been a police officer convicted in Nashville for an on-duty shooting of a Black man. Well, now there has been. He's been convicted. He's a convicted felon, a convicted felon for the rest of his life. He's got no chance at early release. And he just went into custody today. Tonight will be the first night Nashville has ever had a police officer in jail for shooting a Black man on duty. That's significant progress. Because what we are saying is that all of us are accountable. The law should protect everyone in Nashville, and the law should hold all people in Nashville accountable for any violent acts or any unjustified killings. That's the way we've got the place we have to get to as a community. And we took an important step here today. This is not a happy day. But it is a day that Nashville needs to have had to be able to make progress toward the ultimate goal of having a safer community and a community where the police officers and the community work hand-in-hand to try to make sure that we're a safe

place. I believe in chief Drake. I believe John Drake has already taken some very important steps toward bringing the community together. In talking to the commanders around the city, when Chief Drake says to them on Friday, upper-level meetings called CompStat, it is no longer 'how many arrests have been made?' and 'what are your statistics?' But instead, what he says is, 'what are your issues in your precincts and what support do you need?' That's a significant step. He's taken a number of steps to have outreach to the community, and working really hard with Inspector Imhoff to actually do some really innovative partnerships with the community. He's taken tremendous steps with regard to mental health issues and trying to make sure that we decriminalize mental health. He's trying to make the city safe. He's been on the job for six months.

And what we've heard today was we heard Andrew Delke say something different from what the narrative has been from the police union for the last three years. The narrative that I've heard over and over again, is Andrew Delke is being prosecuted just for doing his job. Well, he wasn't doing his job. Because he wasn't justified in shooting Daniel Hambrick. You don't have to believe me. Andrew Delke said that in court today. His use of force, his deadly force, was not reasonably necessary. He's admitted that. That's the first step toward allowing Chief Drake to be able to tell the rank-and-file, do your job, do your job the way you've been trained, respect the citizens and hopefully no more mothers will have to grieve their children.

We're making progress as a city. Today was a very significant step. But at the same time, we have to validate the fact that for a lot of people, especially Ms. Hambrick, but for a lot of people in our community, today's event is triggering. It's triggering. It was triggering when the video came out that showed Andrew Delke shooting Daniel Hambrick in the back. It's triggering to hear that the case has been resolved on a three-year sentence. But with the facts that were involved in this case, the consideration that the jury had, had we taken this case to trial, we not only would have had to continue to live with the with the narrative of 'he's being prosecuted, because he was doing his job' but we also have a very significant chance that the result of that trial would have been something other than accountability. Today's the first step in that. Nashville is a safer place and we're making progress. We've got a long ways to go. But with the conviction today, with the guilty plea today, with the incarceration today and with our police chief being able to work with his officers because of the actions that were taken in court today. I really believe that we have taken some important steps toward reconciliation. Reconciliation's hard, right? But the court system has to be an agent, an ambassador, for reconciliation because the criminal court system can drive the community apart or the criminal justice system can bring the community together. And we've got to get there together. And one of the ways we do that is by recognizing feelings that people have, the emotions that people have, validating people's loss, but also holding folks accountable. I'm not the mayor. I'm not the police chief. I can't dictate how police do their jobs. But it is important for Chief Drake to be able to make progress in best practices with regards to policing and I believe Chief Drake can bring this community together. And I think that this court system, and I think my office is part of that, and we're going to continue to hold people accountable who commit unjustified killings, no matter what their profession is, even if they're police officers. But it is my hope that with today's case, today's conviction that we're not going to see any more of those.

And I pray for Nashville. I pray for Ms. Hambrick and I pray for our police officers and I thank God for Chief Drake and for the people who protect our community and the people that live here in Nashville.