From: Michael Shields
To: woody@gtinewsphoto.com;
Subject: Oceanside Police Officer withheld my crucial audio statement
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2010 6:03:02 PM

The judge in my case was completely outraged at the D.A., and she still tried to bury the audio statement at Oceanside Police Department the day of my car accident. The judge overruled her motion, and my attorney asked for a side bar while I was testifying. The judge (Manio/Vista/department 26) came back and said "we'll break for 20 mins". After the jury left, he scolded the D. A., and asked her why the audio statement was just disclosed the day of trial. She claimed that she "read the police officer the riot act" and she was not aware of the audio statement until the day of trial. My audio statement was crucial evidence that proved I was innocent! After the jury heard that recorded statement, they deliberated for 30 mins, and came back 12-0, not guilty! I've been married for 8 years, licensed broker, honor student on my way to UCSD. I almost took a plea to avoid a very scary prison sentence. I stuck to my guns because I knew I was not guilty, against the advice of my parents, and attorney. They all said the risk is too great, but I knew I was innocent. I was arrested on 2/25/09, and I was acquitted of all charges just two days ago. For over one year the Oceanside Police Department buried my recorded audio statement, and denied that I ever gave one. Thank God, my attorney found it the day of trial. If I would have plead guilty, the Oceanside Police Department would have completely gotten away with this. I have spend $17,000 of my UCSD college money on legal fees, private investigators, and CHP accident reconstruction specialists to prove my innocence. I should be in a class room at UCSD right now, instead I'm working two jobs to replenish my savings and make ends meet. I almost lost my marriage, and thought about suicide everyday. I even thought about taking off to Costa Rica and living my life as a fugitive, but I thought about my family here, and I couldn't do that to them. Needless to say I was shocked when I came across your article from 10/09, almost eight months after my arrest. After reading your article, I ran to the bathroom and threw up. I wonder how many people are in prison, or took a plea deal because of this. This is a huge story that needs to be told.

Respectfully,

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