

Angela Albers Office of the Wood County Criminal District Attorney

November 2, 2021

Chief Chuck Bittner Mineola Police Department 300 Greenville Highway Mineola, Texas 75773

Dear Chief Bittner:

I have had the good fortune of working with you and your officers for many years now and have been grateful for the quality cases I receive from your office. I have also had the pleasure of riding along with a few of your officers and appreciate the work that you all do.

I would like to commend a specific officer. Officer Trent Welborn has presented 25 driving while intoxicated cases to my office in the last year. Each of these cases was thoroughly worked and included blood test results as part of the evidence. I also had an opportunity to ride along with Officer Welborn during a No Refusal Weekend and observed first hand his professionalism with the residents of Mineola.

As a young prosecutor more than two decades ago, I cut my teeth trying DWI cases and I recognize a carefully worked DWI case when I see it. Additionally, when I implemented No Refusal Weekends more than two years ago, my goal was for each agency to adopt a similar principle and to seek out breath or blood specimens in every suspected intoxicated driving case.

Officer Welborn submits comprehensive cases and in every DWI case he has submitted to my office this year, he has obtained a blood specimen. I was very pleased when I learned of this. As

you know, proving a DWI case beyond a reasonable doubt without a blood or breath specimen is often a difficult task. With the inclusion of blood or breath test results with the case report, not only the number of convictions, but the number of guilty pleas increases tremendously.

I wanted to personally thank you and Officer Welborn for your commitment to keeping the citizens of our county safe by protecting the roadways. Officer Welborn has a bright future in law enforcement ahead of him and is an asset to Wood County law enforcement.

Respectfully,

Angela Albers

Wood County Criminal District Attorney