

November 15, 2025

STATEMENT: Families of Baltimore City Firefighters who died and were injured on Stricker Street.

We applaud the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, Baltimore City Police Department and the ATF for their relentless pursuit of justice in this matter and hopefully preventing this individual from hurting anyone else.

Unfortunately, Baltimore City through Mayor Brandon Scott and the City Council, have ignored their job and their responsibility to our loved ones - Kelsey Sadler, Paul Butrim, Kenneth Lacayo, and John McMaster, and to the people of Baltimore City and the rest of our first responders, to ensure this devastating and preventable tragedy never happens again. These heroes and public servants put their lives at risk when they walked into that death trap on Stricker Street and three of them paid the ultimate sacrifice, while another struggles with permanent life altering injuries. Yet, the mayor refuses to hear our concerns. The mayor and city council continue to ignore our families, necessitating litigation in order to be heard, and then repeatedly file legal motions to dismiss our claims, yet wish to take undue credit for helping us get justice.

Rather than acting in good faith and undertake even a meeting with the families to explore resolution short of litigation, where they can have the opportunity to put real change behind words, the city has forced the families to file suit, and then filed numerous motions to dismiss the suit, notwithstanding a nearly 200 page formal investigation which found the city to have committed multiple violations of nationwide fire safety standards, as well as its own internal operating procedures. This is about demands we have that will make firefighting in Baltimore City safer and bring closure to our families and loved ones. Yet, here we are three years later with little to no resolution, being pushed aside by the same city officials who refuse to listen to our pleas yet wish to take credit for bringing a false sense of closure to us.

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