

## STATEMENT OF STEPHEN K. BENJAMIN

I want to begin by again expressing my concern for Deborah Rubens. She remains in my thoughts and prayers, as well as the thoughts and prayers of my family. I ask the citizens of Columbia to continue to pray for Ms. Rubens' recovery as well.

I have provided requested information to the investigators since the accident and will continue to do so, including providing this written statement. I have prepared the following statement regarding the facts of the accident for the City of Columbia Police Department and any other agency involved in the investigation. I have also agreed to and will meet in person with the investigating officers regarding the facts of the accident and any other questions they may have regarding the events prior to or after the accident.

My wife and I stayed at the Hilton Hotel in the Vista after the conclusion of the events of election day and election night, April 20, 2010. I was scheduled to be interviewed by WLTX on the April 21, 2010, 6:00 a.m. newscast. I awoke and prepared myself for the morning. I went to the hotel lobby at approximately 5:30 am. I had to retrieve the keys for my wife's vehicle from the desk as there was no valet on duty and the valet parked our vehicle the day before. I spoke with the front desk clerk and she gave me the keys to my wife's vehicle. I prepared a cup of coffee and exited the rear of the hotel and walked into the parking garage. I located my wife's vehicle, got in, started the vehicle, put on the seat belt and exited the parking garage. My wife's vehicle has automatic lights. I did not adjust the light setting. As I drove the vehicle, the dashboard was illuminated and I was able to clearly see my path of travel.

I exited the parking lot and made a left turn onto Park Street. I traveled up Park Street toward Gervais and made a right on Gervais. I traveled on Gervais Street in the direction of Harden Street. As I approached the intersection of Gervais Street and Pickens Street I was

