

To: Marianne Haggerty, Dateline NBC
Esther Zucker, Dateline NBC
Amanda Lamb, WRAL News
Stacy Davis, WRAL News
Anne Blythe, The News&Observer

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Thank you for your patience and understanding following the Bradley Graham Cooper trial. Since the trial ended, the jurors have been able to reunite and reflect on our time together. After seeing this group of 16 on a very regular schedule and referring to them now as a "jury family," we've learned that it has since become nearly impossible to get everyone in a room together. And the concept of having a unanimous decision on a topic such as talking to the media is more complicated than we knew. Therefore, I am proceeding by letting everyone that has contacted me know my stance, and my stance only. I want it to be clear that I'm not speaking for the group. The statements in this message are mine.

I know and understand the desire of the media in these matters. I want to thank Amanda Lamb for taking time to talk with me on Friday, May 27. It helped me put into perspective that when a media company is in the business of producing television programs, the target outcome is to have jurors on camera. I understand and respect that position. As for me, I respectfully decline to be questioned in front of a camera. This does not represent a group decision. If there are members of the jury that would like to participate in an on-camera interview, I'm confident they will provide thoughtful responses and represent themselves and our group appropriately in such a situation.

I am willing to share some of my thoughts here -- in writing -- regarding the trial, the deliberation process, the media, and the verdict:

With a lengthy trial such as this one, the transition from the presentation of evidence into the deliberation phase felt like being shot from a cannon. The emotional intensity of the last few days of the trial (deliberation) was an important and necessary component of the jury process in this case. After the verdict was delivered, the speed at which we were headed back to begin our regular lives felt abrupt. Before the jury disbanded, all members of the group agreed that we would not talk publicly about the trial for a while. (This was reported on WRAL after Stacy Davis pulled into my driveway and asked me a few questions.) We didn't have time to define what "a while" meant long-term, and we were unaware of what the future would hold in terms of inquiries.

Since that time, we've heard not only from the media, but there is talk that the prosecution team wants to discuss the case and I'm aware that some of the jurors were contacted by the defense team. (I have not been contacted by either group.) It is my personal belief that we (the jurors) came into this process verdict-neutral. Brad Cooper was innocent until proven guilty. For me, the result of the outcome will not cause me to pick a side. I feel the same for the families. Because of our verdict, I didn't form an alliance or fall in favor with one side or the other. I came into this situation neutral and I left it that way. The evidence was the only factor in determining our verdict. As such, I plan to share information [that is appropriate to share] equally and in an impartial manner.

Regarding the start of deliberations and the evidence:

- Most of us [the jurors] were undecided when we started deliberations. As noted, the transition happened quickly and we needed time as a group to focus on the process and the laws we were instructed to follow. Then with our notes, the evidence presented became clear.
- The evidence presented by Special Agents Johnson and Chappell drove the outcome on this case. It caused [a lot of] the other circumstantial evidence to become relevant and credible.

I spoke with Anne Blythe today, primarily about social media and how we were required to address this issue during our time on the jury (Feb 28 – May 5). She heard a preview of this message. I'll also send her a document we were required to sign as members of the jury that relates to her inquiry.

Please know that I will share this message with the members of the jury. I'm not trying to influence them in any way. We've been consistent in sharing these types of communications with each other. I've also been asked questions by some of the jurors, and this is my way of trying to address their questions and the media's questions collectively.

As I've stated before, if I can clarify anything off-camera, let me know. Thank You.

Andy Gilbert (Juror #7 / Foreperson)