

June 30, 2016

Wayne County - Judge James Callahan's sentencing transcribed by DogsBite.org from [ClickonDetroit.com video](#)

## Judge James Callahan

“The Court has had the opportunity of reading through the pre-sentence investigation report and looking at the history of the defendant. Mr. Villarruel had made comment of earlier in his comments on behalf of his client, touched upon a very important message. Although Mr. Lyons was involved in reprehensible behavior in the past, he totally changed his life around. He turned his life around to where he became a positive aspect in society, as opposed to a vein, a draw of resources, etcetera.

That does not viciate or take away from the terrible circumstances that befell of Xavier and Mrs. Strickland on December 2 of last year. But it does give me some enlightenment in regard to what should or should not be done in regard to you, now that you have been found guilty of involuntary manslaughter of this child.

True the behavior of these dogs was terrible, vicious. Killed this little baby. [unintelligible]. I understand the tears that were shed by several of the men that were on the jury and you expressed the same feeling that I think they had as well.

I'm sure that if you were capable of, or did return to your home earlier in the day, to where you could have interceded and prevented these dogs from continuing what they did with Xavier that you would have absolutely done so to even your own peril, as would any man on its [unintelligible] or for that matter a woman.

In trying to fashion a sentence for you in regard to what had occurred, because you have been found guilty of ostensibly gross negligence in failing to prevent these dogs from escaping from your property and running at will in the community causing a very serious threat to the well being of children, especially.

Taking into consideration your change in your circumstances, I don't believe that a lengthily incarceration of you would be of any benefit to you at all. It would not be of any benefit to the community at all. **It certainly would not work as a deterrent because the conduct of the dogs, although imputable to you, because you were responsible for them, were the acts of animals. Lacking of reason.**

Certainly you didn't intend for this child to be viciously attacked by these dogs. But it was your responsibility to have prevented their release, so that they could inflict injury upon others, including Xavier. So for that reason, what I am going to do is, I am placing you on probation for a period of 5-years. This is for your violation of [municipal code law read here], dangerous animals causing death...

However, I do not want other people who possess these type of animals from thinking that they can possess these animals without any responsibility for what the repercussions of their conduct might be. And for that reason, the first 12-months, you are sentenced to the Wayne County jail. Because of your assistance with the community, your helping the community, and your leading an otherwise law abiding life, I am going to allow you to have work release during that period of time.”

