

In response to the comments made by the domestic violence support groups:

First, I would ask them to fully read and digest the case facts before passing judgment on the history of this case. In December 2014, my office responded and arrested the murderer on felony domestic violence. The victim, Ms. Johnson, was non-compliant at the scene and through the prosecution phase she formally requested the charges be dropped.

[In] June 2015, he was seen in her neighborhood one day after having moved out earlier and she called 911 and deputies responded. There was NO restraining order at that time and in fact it was the sheriff's office that assisted her in obtaining one after that call. There were never any reports of him violating this [restraining order]...I reiterate this because there is an assertion made by this group that the "system failed" Ms. Johnson.

I welcome critique, but I fail to see where there was any omission by my office regarding this tragic case.

Now, as to the notion of victims shouldn't be protecting themselves: you bet I stand behind my point that abuse victims can and have a right to protect themselves from bodily harm and Louisiana law states that explicitly. By the group's own admission, it is stated that [restraining orders] are not the total answer. Surely this case attests to that.

So, frankly I am a bit taken back by groups that exist to serve abused victims reacting so harshly to a simple assertion that victims HAVE OPTIONS and one is to get a hand gun, get trained with it and when the abuser - at 11 pm climbs a 6 foot wooden fence from the woods in the back and the victim SEES HIM and easily identifies him as the man who tried to strangle her - she can and should use this weapon BEFORE he breaks the glass back door and enters and bludgeons her to death.

We differ fundamentally