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Victim Impact Statement of Vivian Diego

Hello, I am Vivian and I would like to start off today by thanking the court for allowing me to be here today to give my statement on this matter. I would also like to thank the whole District Attorney's office for helping me seek justice in this matter from a beating that took place on May 31, 2013. After leaving work that night I was beaten by four men and left for dead. I woke up at Cedars Sinai hospital in the intensive care unit from thinking I was having a bad nightmare to understanding that this was actually my reality. Never in a million years would I have thought that I would be attacked and victimized in the way that I was and that the defendants would have shattered my face, knocked my jaw to the back of my throat and caused me to lose the hearing in my left ear. They shattered my jaw, fractured both eye sockets, broke my cheekbone, fractured my temple and broke my ribs. The temple fracture was what resulted in the hearing loss which will always be a constant reminder of what I survived.

I was in intensive care for 2 days and when I woke up from the surgery my jaw was wired shut. I was moved to critical care where I stayed for another 16 days. It was awful. I wouldn't wish the pain I went through on my worst enemy. The severity of the physical healing process took over two months but the mental and emotional healing is an ongoing process that will never end.

Most of all I am very thankful to still be alive.

I suffer great anxiety not only from being brutally victimized but also for being called an "it and a freak" by Mark Geragos at one of the court hearings. I have a permanent plate in my jaw area. I feel that the men that attacked me got off way too easy and that justice was not properly served. One of my assaulters got off with a plea bargain of 1 year probation and no jail time. The second man, who sits here today has pled guilty to a felony and settled out of court with the ability to earn a misdemeanor after performing community service.

The nurse in ICU told me that whoever did this to me was trying to kill me. This feels like a very light punishment for men who had intended to kill me. I believe that both of these men should serve prison time for what they did to me. Anyone who intends to inflict great bodily injury on another person and does inflict great bodily harm should serve the maximum prison time that comes with that charge.

Honestly my anxiety is so overwhelming that just being outside sometimes is too much for me. I can't be around big crowds. I can't walk alone. I lost my hearing in my left ear, my jaw will never be normal. Just knowing I have these injuries permanently affects me emotionally. I have to watch what I do daily so that I don't worsen my injuries. These injuries will be with me for life. I am afraid to ever go back to Hollywood again and it used to be one of my favorite places where I worked for 5 years.

Even though I suffer so much from what happened to me, I am still very thankful that I am here to tell my story. I want to let people know that being transgender does not mean that our lives are disposable. At the end of the day we are still human and we love and bleed the same way as others.