

Toward Zero Deaths Conference
St. Cloud, MN
October 23, 2019



Jessica and Kelli Uhl



Jessica Uhl
June 4, 1989 – November 23, 2007



Kelli Uhl
January 1, 1994 – November 23, 2007

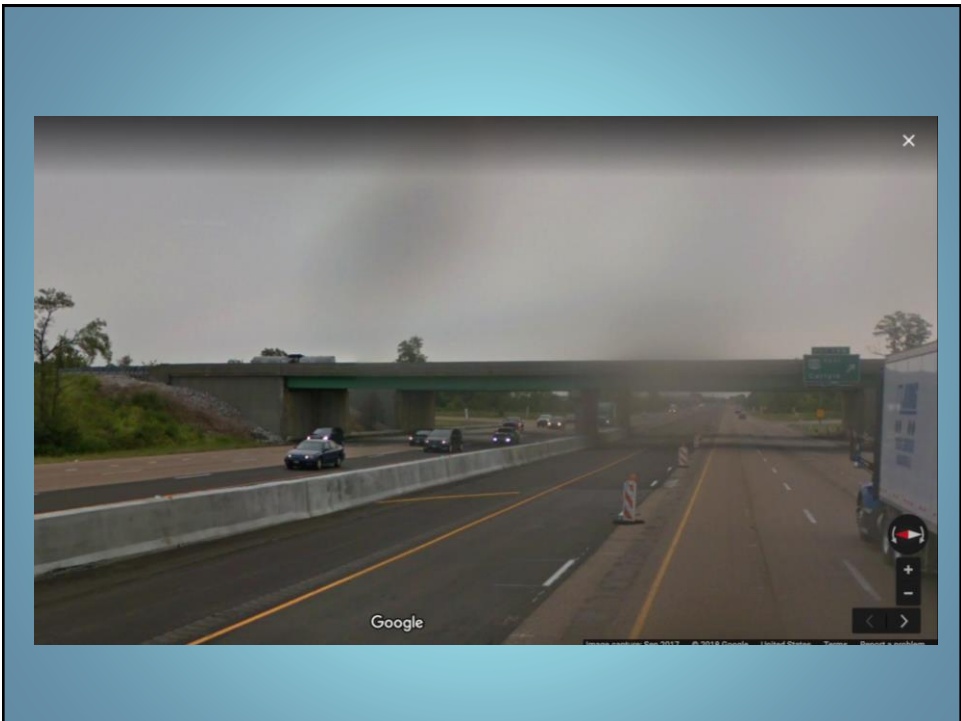




Crash Timeline



- 11:55:41 – Initial 10-50 crash dispatch
- 11:56:30 – Mitchell advises he will take crash
- 11:58:38 – Mitchell receives call on his personal cell from his girlfriend
- 11:59:22 – Radio advises disregard 10-50
- 12:00:44 – Mitchell sends MDT message for directions
- 12:02:05 – Mitchell's cell call terminated
- 12:02:41 – First 911 call for fatal crash
- Distance from 1 to 2 – 19 mi
- Distance from 1 to 3– 10.6 mi (6:11)









ISP Announces Monumental Policy Changes Which Address Emergency Response Procedures



Press Release Date: November 21, 2008 || Archived May 20, 2009

SPRINGFIELD, IL - November 23 marks the one year anniversary of a tragic car crash that took the lives of sisters Jessica and Kelli Uhl. On that tragic day, Illinois State Police (ISP) Trooper Matt Mitchell's squad car crossed an I-64 median and collided into a car occupied by the two Collins.

➤ **Implementation of a four-tier response system based on situation—officers must have supervisor authority to exceed speed limit by more than 20 mph**

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Directo

On January 8, 2008, Director Trent mandated that when a vehicle equipped with an in-car video system is operating with the emergency lights activated, the in-car camera must be activated without exception. Command officers within the ISP were directed to discuss the importance of exercising due care when responding to calls for service with their subordinates. Additionally, during the past year, the ISP convened an internal committee, and consulted with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Police Executive Research Forum to review various law enforcement policies.

➤ **Cell phone use must be hands-free**

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As a result of the review, the ISP will institute monumental policy changes and enhancements on January 1, 2009. The following policy changes are being implemented in an effort to lessen the likelihood of a similar tragedy:

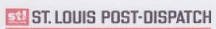
- Implementation of a comprehensive response driving policy. The policy will institute a four-tier response code system for officers responding to emergency calls.

➤ **No MDC or cell phone use while on emergency response**

The IS
departments have set such stringent requirements.

- Implementation of a cellular hands-free requirement. The use of cellular phone while driving a department-owned vehicle will only be permitted when the device is used with a hands-free component. Also, officers will not be permitted to use a mobile data computer or cellular equipment for voice or data communications while on an emergency response call.

Trooper gets probation for causing traffic deaths : News <http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/trooper-gets-p...>



Trooper gets probation for causing traffic deaths



APRIL 17, 2010 12:00 AM • BY NICHOLAS J.C. PISTOR • NPISTOR@POST-DISPATCH.COM > 314-340-8265

BELLEVILLE • Illinois State Trooper Matt Mitchell made a plea deal Friday in which he admitted criminal responsibility but avoided prison for a high-speed traffic crash that killed two teenage sisters as he responded to a call.

Mitchell stood before a judge and said he will "forever regret" losing control of his patrol car and causing a fiery crash on Interstate 64, near the Scott Air Force base exit, that killed the sisters and injured others, including himself.

In exchange for the guilty plea on two counts each of reckless homicide and aggravated reckless driving, Judge Jan Fiss put Mitchell on 30 months of probation. The trooper could have faced a prison term of up to five years.

Mitchell became the first Illinois police officer convicted of reckless homicide for a wreck that happened on duty, said St. Clair County State's Attorney Robert Haida.

He said he agreed to the plea deal, with consent of the victims' parents, because there was no assurance of a conviction at trial.

Trooper now says he didn't cause fatal crash : News <http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/trooper-now-s...>

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Trooper now says he didn't cause fatal crash

APRIL 20, 2010 12:00 AM • BY NICHOLAS C. PISTOR > NPISTOR@POST-DISPATCH.COM > 314-340-8265

BELLEVILLE • Illinois Trooper Matt Mitchell admitted Friday that he was criminally responsible for an on-duty crash that killed two sisters, and apologized for his recklessness. On Monday, he tried to take it all back.

"I did not plead guilty because I felt that I did it," Mitchell said in an Illinois Court of Claims hearing here. "I did not think I could get a fair trial. I did what I had to do."

The about-face came three days after Mitchell, 31, pleaded guilty on two counts each of reckless homicide and aggravated reckless driving, and was sentenced to 30 months on probation. At the time, he said he would "forever regret" what happened.


But things changed under heated questioning Monday morning by lawyer Tom Keefe, who is seeking \$24 million in wrongful-death damages for the family of victims Jessica Uhl, 18, and Kelli Uhl, 13. Mitchell refused to admit he caused the collision.

Keefe repeatedly asked Mitchell whether he had lied when he admitted wrongdoing in the criminal case.

"I guess I did," Mitchell responded.

Sep 21, 2010

Ex-Illinois trooper who killed sisters in crash seeks workers' comp

Recommend 25 4 n 

By Michael Winter, USA TODAY
Updated 2010-09-21 10:17 PM

On the day after Thanksgiving 2007, an Illinois state trooper hit and killed two sisters while he was driving 126 mph, sending e-mail and talking to his girlfriend on his cellphone. Now he wants the state to pay him for the serious leg injuries he suffered in the crash, the *Belleville News-Democrat* reports.

Now-former trooper Matt Mitchell filed a workers' compensation claim last week, despite having pleaded guilty to reckless homicide and reckless driving and being sentenced to 30 months of probation. During the two years before his plea and resigning from the Illinois State Police, he collected his annual \$68,000-a-year salary while suspended.

Police said Mitchell was speeding on I-64 near O'Fallon while responding to an accident even though help was at the scene already. His cruiser crossed the median and hit a car head on, killing the sisters and injuring two friends.

Although Mitchell was negligent, he could be compensated under state law because the accident happened while he was doing his job, lawyers say.

(Posted by Michael Winter)

Uhl Sisters Mother Gets Uhl's Law Signed | News

Title (Max 100 Characters)

Uhl Sisters Mother Gets Uhl's Law Signed



Submitted by [KTIV-KPLR Staff](#) ([profile/49915/kiv-kplr-staff](#))
Tuesday, August 9th, 2011, 1:29pm

Topics: [News](#) ([news/news](#))



It was a bittersweet victory in Illinois. Governor Pat Quinn signed "Uhl's Law" Monday, in honor of Collinsville sisters Jessica and Kelli Uhl, who were killed by a speeding state trooper in 2007. The new law prevents people from getting workers compensation benefits if their on committing a felony, aggravated DUI, or reckless homicide. The trooper who killed the Uhl sisters prompted the char

"I'm glad to see it finally official," said Kim Schlau, Jessica and Kelli's mother. "It's one more door we can close, one r pulled good out of this tragedy."

Jessica was 18 and Kelli 13, when they died on November 23, 2007. Illinois trooper Matt Mitchell slammed into their to a call, driving 126 miles an hour, talking on his cell phone and looking at his computer. He pleaded guilty to reckless compensation from the state of Illinois for his injuries.

"We were shocked," said Schlau. "I never dreamed he could. And when we were told he could file, I thought it's a feli sadly, he can."

Ex-Illinois trooper loses bid to get back driving privileges : News

<http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/illinois/ex-illinois-trooper-loses...>

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Ex-Illinois trooper loses bid to get back driving privileges



AUGUST 27, 2012 9:28 AM • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELLEVILLE • A former Illinois State Police trooper whose 2007 high-speed crash killed two sisters has lost his latest bid to get his driving privileges back.

The Belleville News-Democrat reports that an Illinois Secretary of State hearing officer denied Matt Mitchell's request to have his driver's license reinstated. He now has a little more than a month to appeal to a court.

Mitchell's license was revoked after he pleaded guilty to reckless homicide charges. He was driving more than 120 mph and using his cellphone on Interstate 64 in southwestern Illinois when his cruiser crossed the median, killing Jessica and Kelli

Uhl of Collinsville, and injuring a couple from Fayetteville.

Mitchell now lives in Killeen, Texas. He says he's a single parent and needs to be able to drive.

Jesse White blocking license for ex-Illinois trooper who killed 2 teen... <http://www.attoday.com/news/local/illinois/jesse-white-blocking>

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Jesse White blocking license for ex-Illinois trooper who killed 2 teen sisters



13 HOURS AGO • THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BENTON, Ill. • Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White's office says he has been personally blocking attempts by a former Illinois state trooper to get his driver's license back.

The former trooper, Matt Mitchell, lost his driving privileges over a 2007 crash in which he killed two sisters. Mitchell was driving more than 120 mph at the time and using his

cellphone and computer.

Mitchell's attorney, J. Israel Slone, says hearing officers with the Secretary of State's Office have recommended Mitchell get his license back but they've been overruled each time by a higher ranking official.

On Tuesday, spokesman Dave Druker told the Belleville News Democrat it was Jesse White himself.

Druker says White feels the former trooper has not presented a convincing case.

Slone plans to take the matter to court.

Information from: Belleville News-Democrat, <http://www.bnd.com>









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EMPOWERING ALL OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S NEEDS

Fallen Officers Report a Fallen Officer K9s Get Involved Support ODMP Donate

			
Deputy Sheriff Jake Allmendinger Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, MT End of Watch: October 19, 2019	Captain Albert Torres Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, CA End of Watch: October 12, 2019	Trooper Peter R. Stephan Indiana State Police, IN End of Watch: October 11, 2019	Deputy Sheriff Matt Jones Falls County Sheriff's Office, TX End of Watch: October 11, 2019

[View all 2019 Fallen Officers](#)

"When a police officer is killed, it's not an agency
that loses an officer, it's an entire nation."
-Chris Congriff, ODMP Founder

As of October 23, 2019 - 101 LODD
Auto Related - 32
Gunfire - 39

Yolo County, California

Began Below 100
November 15, 2012

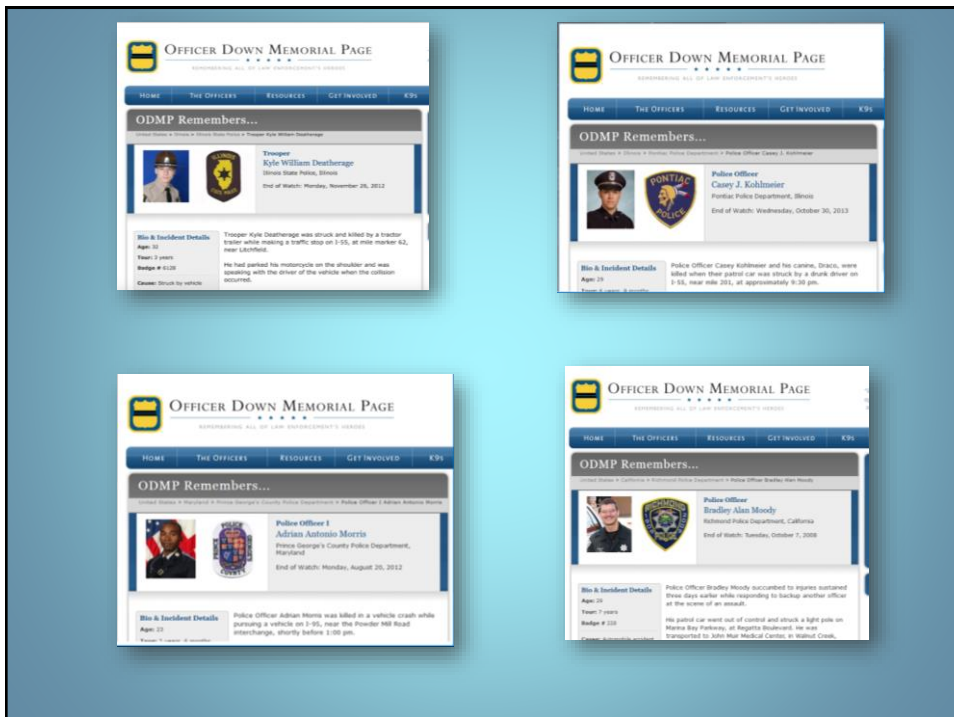
Created "Uhl Sisters" Poster

Spent \$900 to implement

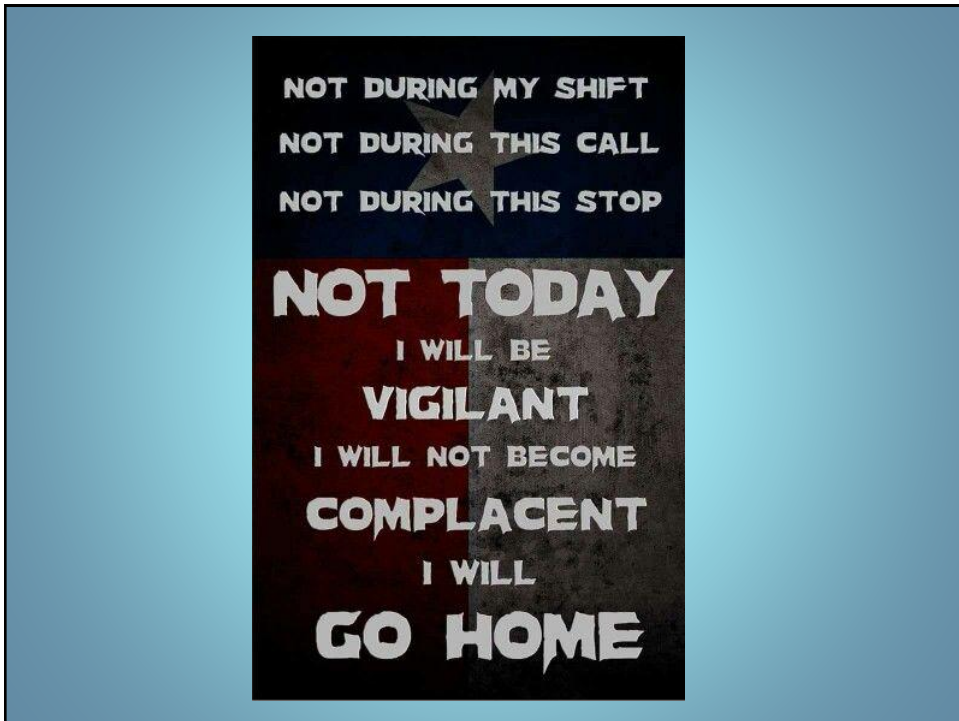
Saved over \$750,000 in costs

**33 MONTHS 1 DAY WITHOUT
AN AT-FAULT
CRASH (8/17/2015)**

**FEW ADDITIONAL AT-FAULT
CRASHES TO DATE**







- ◇ www.jessicaandkelliuhl.com
- ◇ www.kimberlyschlau.com
- ◇ www.below100.org

Facebook:

◇ Jessica and Kelli Uhl Memorial Foundation

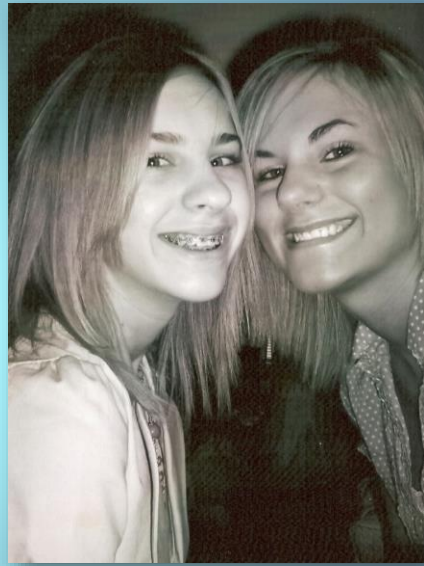
◇ Kimberly Schlau – Public Speaker

Twitter:

- @UhlSisters
- @Below_100

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Stay Safe!!