



Chris Robertson | 1970 - 2000

On November 17, 2000, cyclist Chris Robertson was killed by a truck driver in what witnesses describe as a fit of road rage. The driver was subsequently arrested and charged with three felonies including involuntary manslaughter. On April 17, 2001, a San Francisco judge dismissed the manslaughter charge and reduced the other charges to misdemeanors. The judge stated that there was not enough evidence to substantiate gross negligence, the criterion for a manslaughter charge.

The judge made this decision despite overwhelming testimony from eyewitnesses to the contrary, including the driver's own admission that he was playing "a game of chicken" with the cyclists. A professional driver playing games with a large truck with people on bikes is gross negligence, and this game resulted in the death of a 30-year old man.

With this decision, the justice system has failed Chris Robertson, and the city as a whole. The police, with its sloppy handling of this and other cases, failed us. The City, having neglected to make our streets safe, despite the deaths of countless pedestrians and cyclists, has failed us. As cyclists, we demand the following:

- Implementation of a safe street task force that includes cyclists, pedestrians, SFPD, DPT, Board of Supervisors, and the D.A.
- Appropriate response from SFPD when investigating incidents involving bicyclists and motorists
- Enforcement of cyclists' and pedestrian's rights to the street
- Legal accountability for motorists who harass, injure, or kill pedestrians or cyclists

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