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Comments from Mayor Bill Finch:

Let me start off by saying that I respect the public's right to know. I respect the First Amendment.

I respectfully but very strongly disagree when members of some church from Topeka, Kansas, says hateful words outside funerals of fallen heroes killed defending our country.

And I believe that there are times that sensitivity to victims and victims' families – and shouldn't they be the people we most want to protect -- outweigh the quote unquote public interest.

This is not about the freedom of the press or about their right to obtain a graphic crime scene photo. This is about protecting the people who have suffered enough already. We need to find a balance.

These people have been victimized already. Shouldn't the government look to help them? Look to prevent them from being re-victimized?

I will say this over and over: Put yourself in their shoes.

I sat with parents who lost a child at Sandy Hook at the hands of a madman last December. Put yourself in their shoes. I hope you, I or anyone else never have to.

What I saw was utter emotional devastation. Their innocent children were taken from them in the most violent way imaginable.

If you ask me if the public needs to hear police dispatch tapes filled with the sound of rapid-fire gunshots that slaughtered 20 innocent children and six heroic educators, I say no.

I respect the public's right to know. But these families are still struggling every day to piece their lives together. I don't know if I ever could. I have four children. Two could have been at Sandy Hook that day. I ask you, what is the public benefit, the public good of making information like this – 911 tapes, transcripts, crime scene photos – available?

Does that public benefit outweigh the devastation the parents of any of these children would feel when they listen to that gunfire on the news and wonder if that was one of the bullets that killed Noah, Olivia, Allison.

We lose children every day in this country to senseless gun violence. I ask you to think about the parents. How does anyone benefit from seeing autopsy pictures? Shouldn't parents and sisters and brothers be left with the images of their loved one dressed for the prom or sitting in a family portrait?

Who does it benefit to release these photos? Certainly not the all of the people who already are coping with unimaginable grief.

I ask you to put yourself in their shoes. The question before us is how to balance the public's right to know versus victims' privacy. This conversation is more than Sandy Hook. We lose men and women to violence every week in Connecticut. There are terrible crimes that our crime scene investigators document in graphic detail. These images are taken so terrible people can be held accountable.

I ask you question: Does the public's right to see crime scene photos outweigh Dr. Petit's right to not have to relive the murder of his family.

What public benefit is there to release photos of the autopsy of 8-year-old Leroy Brown Jr. For those of you who don't remember him, please do a Google search. Here in Bridgeport, we will never forget him.

One of the most important things to consider is that we live in the electronic age. The stakes are higher now. Before, we were asked to release information to the media. To Dan Rather with the trust that he would exercise good judgment .

Today, we are not discussing releasing information to News 12, the New York Times and the Hartford Courant. They have professionals that discuss editorial content and whether it is appropriate.

This information is available to everyone, The Times, the online news site and the 13-year-old blogger sitting in the basement of his parents' house looking to post the most explicit and graphic content he can find.

I am here to protect victims.

Again, I respect the public's right to know. I am not asking you to eviscerate the First Amendment or Sunshine Laws.

I am asking you to do one thing. Consider our victims. Consider their families. Consider the pain that we will revisit on their lives if we, as a government, don't do the right thing.

Thank you.