

## TREATMENT OF FIRST RESPONDERS IN THE NIAGARA REGION

To whom it may concern:

Dan Giancola of BTO Performance's Give The Boot To: \_\_\_\_\_, on behalf of Refuse To Lose Against PTSD, would like to make a presentation before Council with respect to the Treatment of First Responders in the Niagara Region who are afflicted with this disease on September 16, 2019.

My name is Gianni Marinelli. I am Mr. Giancola's point of contact. I can be reached at 905-397-5058 or [gianpaolomarinelli752@gmail.com](mailto:gianpaolomarinelli752@gmail.com) if that is more convenient.

We thank you for your consideration in these matters.

With over 30 years combined experience combined in the health care and first responder sector, Tanya and Phil have dedicated their lives to helping others.

July 5, 2015, was a day that changed their lives forever, in more ways than anyone could have ever imagined.

With Tanya at work and Phil, a Niagara Regional Police officer, also at work that evening on the road, no one could have ever predicted the night would end the way it did.

At 8:22 pm, while on patrol, Phil responded to a mental health call, where a disturbed male suffering from schizophrenia was determined to kill his parents. Arriving on scene, the officers entered the residence where the male had already doused the house and his mother in gasoline waiting for the police to enter. After entering the residence, the male ignited the gasoline.

As the house exploded and burned around him, Phil attempted to free the mother from her wheelchair unsuccessfully. Phil risked his life that night to save the mother's life, however was forced out by the explosion, unable to save her. As a result, he suffered life altering injuries to himself.

Phil suffered 3rd and 4th degree burns to 50% of his body. He was airlifted to the Hamilton General Hospital where he would receive numerous skin grafts while in an induced coma for the next month and a half.

Tanya not only stayed by his side the entire time but researched how to be able to take care of Phil once he returned home, determined to help Phil make a full recovery.

Although Tanya was prepared for taking care of the burns and physical ailments of Phil, neither were prepared for the mental health issues that would arise.

Phil developed Complex PTSD, suffering nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety, chronic depression and severe anger. Tanya once again found herself researching care for the man she loved. 3 years after the horror that took place that night, Phil and Tanya are now on a mission to help other first responders, veterans and their families who suffer in silence every day.

As of January 3rd, 2018, Tanya has been diagnosed with Vicarious PTSD. Spending all her time caring for Phil and studying about mental health, she too found herself living the nightmare.

There is no book, paper, thesis or any other document that can describe the after shock as well as lived and shared experience. No one needs to suffer in silence. Families need to be taken care of by our health care system. There is hope out there, and Phil and Tanya can help guide you on the path to find the help you or your loved one needs.

Refuse to Lose Against PTSD is a not for profit organization. All funds from sales, donations and seminars are donated back into the community to assist those who deserve the life they once had.