



SAMUEL C. WARD JR.  
— & ASSOCIATES —

## Press Release

January 8, 2023

I represent the family with regard to the unfortunate and tragic incident which occurred on January 6, 2023. Words cannot express what this family is going through. They are grieving the loss of their beautiful, seven-year-old Sadie. This child was giving her grandmother and others a "fashion show" when she exited the home to "model" her next princess outfit. She exited the side door with the intention of entering the front door which served as her "runway". She had done so many times previously. As she approached, the vicious, unrestrained pitbull attacked her causing serious injury. This brutal attack occurred in a matter of seconds and family members rushed to her aid. Unfortunately, Sadie succumbed to her injuries hours later. (*this particular canine had been reported to authorities on previous occasions*)

East Baton Rouge is no stranger to problems with pit bull proliferation. In 2006 the parish failed to pass breed specific regulation(s) of pit bull canines. The data shows that in 2007 56 pit bulls accounted for 61% of reported dangerous dog incidents, with the next highest being Rottweilers

with 4. In a previously published article, 40 year East Baton Rouge Control Director Hilton Cole said it best.... "We [EBR] have a pit bull problem".

While there may be a time and place in which the family may wish to make a public statement or give an interview, now is not that time. In fact, they request that anyone associated with the media allow them proper time and space in which to grieve for this child. Hopefully, this request is honored and understood.

Now is not the time for interviews, lawyers, nor anything other than allowing the family to properly grieve for this precious child. **This request extends not only to the media but also individuals as well as the School system who has commented publicly on this matter.**

The family appreciates all of the prayers and well wishes which have been extended by the community.



SCA