

MEDICAL BACKGROUND STATEMENT

DALLAS, JANUARY 23, 2024—The following statement may be attributed to Robert J. Burke, M.D., on behalf of the Dunagan family to provide additional context regarding the Dallas Medical Examiner’s Cause of Death Report. Dr. Burke, an anesthesiologist, is an Elder on the Highland Park Presbyterian Church Session.

“Bryan, a lifelong athlete, suffered a knee injury while playing lacrosse at Stanford. As an adult, he continued to participate in many other athletic activities, including regular running. Because of the college knee injury, and decades of wear and tear from other athletic pursuits, Bryan developed knee pain, for which he was prescribed the common pain reliever Tramadol. Following a run the afternoon before his death, Bryan took a Tramadol to relieve soreness in his knee.

“Additionally, Bryan had often mentioned—and even preached about—his anxiety. To help address this, Bryan was also prescribed a low dosage amount of sertraline, a generic version of Zoloft. The evening before his death, Bryan hosted family at his home for dinner and drinks. Early the next morning, Bryan was found unresponsive in his home.

“Bryan’s wife, Ali Dunagan, requested an autopsy, which was performed by the Dallas Medical Examiner’s office. After the autopsy, and a subsequent careful review of the report by a board-certified toxicologist as well as another forensic medical expert, it appears that a combination of alcohol and the two commonly prescribed medicines, **in their regular therapeutic amounts**, resulted in a completely unexpected and unintentional cardiac and/or pulmonary event/reaction.

“The Medical Examiner’s use of “mixed drug toxicity” in the cause of death findings is a medical term that merely attributes the cause of death. It does not mean that drugs or alcohol were abused or overdosed, or anything untoward or improper occurred. For inexplicable reasons, Bryan’s otherwise healthy body reacted in a surprising, sudden, and abnormal manner, resulting in his death.”