

Opening Statement of Cindy Lou Young
Before the January 6th Historical Commission
Prepared for the Record

Chairman, Members of the Commission,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Your effort to build a truthful record from those of us shaped by January 6th honors the justice I once trusted. I grew up believing in a Constitution that protects God-given rights, where truth prevails. My J6 trial (United States v. Young, 1:23-cr-00241) shattered that faith—my rights were trampled.

My Fifth Amendment right to due process was violated. FBI Agent Matthew Giftos testified under oath that he observed no violence or vandalism in my actions on January 6th, stating I was “walking peacefully” and following police instructions (Trial Transcript, p. 37). His FBI 302 report also described me as “peaceful,” yet this was suppressed, and I faced selective prosecution in D.C.’s 95%+ conviction zone. My Sixth Amendment right to an impartial jury was denied, most starkly by Juror 0374, the foreperson, whose undisclosed affiliations with the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and WilmerHale, a law firm tied to anti-Trump litigation, compromised his impartiality (see Memorandum on Juror 0374, submitted herewith). During voir dire, he concealed his 2015-2017 DNC research role and WilmerHale employment, evading questions about anti-Trump bias (Transcript, pp. 92-95). As foreperson, his bias likely skewed deliberations, overshadowing exculpatory evidence like Agent Giftos’s testimony. Judge Harvey dismissed my objections as “speculative,” yet mailed Juror 0374 the ruling on October 2, 2025—an unusual step raising questions about judicial impartiality (Memorandum, p. 4). With a repeat juror and a tainted pool, my trial was compromised.

Vital evidence, like MPD footage of officers shouting “Go! Go! Go!,” was excluded, undermining my defense that I relied on police guidance, as Agent Giftos’s testimony supported. My First Amendment speech and Fourth Amendment protections were eroded under FBI surveillance, which ended only after my January 27, 2025, pardon. These are constitutional guarantees, not privileges—when breached for one, they weaken for all.

In court, prosecutors branded me a “traitor”—AUSA Rebekah Lederer’s words at my November 2024 sentencing. My defense forced truths into the record, like Agent Garland’s 2021 closed case, but my 26-minute presence defined my life. Convicted on four

misdemeanors, I was spared prison by that pardon, yet the system resisted, forcing motions to lift reporting requirements.

Pre-trial, Judge Harvey barred my First Amendment defense and “entrapment by estoppel,” preventing me from arguing I followed police instructions, as Agent Giftos’s testimony supported. Motions on juror misconduct and Brady violations were denied, despite video and testimony the jury saw but couldn’t fully weigh. Forty character letters vouched for me; Harvey noted my “good life,” yet judged me by 26 minutes.

Post-pardon, I’ve fought on. My September 2025 Rule 33 motion, highlighting 274 FBI agents in the crowd, was dismissed as “improperly filed.” Days after Harvey’s mailer to Juror 0374, an advocate faced an FBI visit, suggesting a chilling effect. Through FOIA requests, judicial complaints, and my D.C. Circuit appeal, I seek restoration, not vengeance.

I stand here in faith, not anger, believing your work can heal our nation. Many J6 defendants saw D.C.’s near-certain convictions and pled; I chose trial, trusting truth’s power. I am one of the few misdemeanor defendants who endured a full jury trial, despite conviction rates nearing 99%. Hopelessness is not in my nature. I believe that Truth—not in my time, but in God’s time—will prevail. I urge the Commission to examine Agent Giftos’s testimony, the suppressed FBI 302 report, and my Memorandum on Juror 0374 to assess how exculpatory evidence was sidelined and juror bias tainted J6 trials, ensuring justice for all defendants.

Thank you.

Cindy L. Young