Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Becky Thore and I am 40 years old. I am currently employed with the Panama City Police Department and have been since May of 2011. I am married to a handsome detective that also works with the Panama City Police Department. I am the proud mother of a beautiful seventeen year old daughter and a lucky step mom to a handsome 16 year old son. To me, the top priority in my life is my family and the time we spend together.

I feel that I would be a good candidate for LASIK surgery for numerous reasons in both my personal and professional life. In my personal life, my family and I enjoy doing activities outside, from going to the beach to zip-lining. There have been several occasions in our family outings when I have either had to take my glasses off (due to hazard of loss or damage) or the loss of a contact while participating in activities. When either of these two things happen, it makes for an uncomfortable remainder of the day for me, usually followed by a bad headache for the drive home in the event a contact was lost.

In my profession, law enforcement, safety is my number one priority. Every day when I suit up for my job, I put on my necessary tools. My Kevlar vest and duty belt are two important tools I must not leave home without, but I have to also wear my glasses/contacts to functionally see. It is a necessity for me to have back up contacts or a second set of glasses at all times. Many unpredictable things can happen during my shift that can affect my vision whether I am wearing contacts or glasses.

There are many inconveniences with wearing glasses on the job and many job related tasks are hindered due to wearing glasses. During an arrest, my glasses may be knocked off and/or broken. This would render me useless for the remainder of my shift if my backup pair of glasses/contacts are not available. The simple task of going from one climate to another (to and from patrol car/building) becomes an issue due to my glasses fogging up, temporarily impairing my sight. I have to usually stop and clean my glasses or allow them to adjust if a cloth for cleaning isn’t available. This can be a major safety issue if I physically can’t see what is going on around me.

I would like to say wearing contacts is less of a safety issue in my line of work, but I have faced problems with them as well. I once had an issue of using pepper spray to gain compliance with a suspect and inadvertently got the pepper spray in my eyes. With this incident, I immediately took my contacts out and went to my backup pair of glasses. My eyes were still very irritated and the contacts were disposed of due to contamination. With the change in temperature/climate, I also experience my eyes drying out. With long shifts (8 to 11 hours), my eyes become tired and irritated from extended wear.

In closing, I know how important having good vision is, up until the age of 12, it was not an issue for me. I believe with LASIK surgery, my quality of life would improve greatly. It would no longer be a necessity to grab glasses or contacts, since my vision would be surgically corrected to close if not the same as when I was 12 years old.

Thank you in advance for giving First Responders this great opportunity to improve themselves to be able to better serve this community.

Respectfully submitted,

Officer Becky Thore, #711 PCPD