Sheriff Daryl King

Big Horn County Sheriff’s Office

dking@bighorncountymt.gov

Mailing Address

Big Horn County Sheriff
P.O. Box 905
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August 26, 2023

Sheriff King,

It has been four years since Kaysera Stops Pretty Places was found, murdered, in Big Horn County. For the first time in four years, the family has hope that your office will cooperate with the Murdered and Missing Unit (“MMU”) within the Department of the Interior. I write to advocate that you cooperate with the MMU and allow them to conduct their investigation.

Law enforcement did not inform the family that Kaysera’s body had been found until almost two weeks later on September 11. And when they did inform the family, the Big Horn County Sheriff’s Office made no attempt or effort to interview a single person in Kaysera’s family. Instead of interviewing the individuals who constitute the most obvious sources of critical information in a criminal investigation, the investigating officers at the Big Horn County Sheriff’s Office refused to meet with Kaysera’s mother, aunties, and grandmother/legal guardian, who had to call and show up in person, repeatedly, for weeks before anyone at the Sheriff’s Office would even speak with them.

This is a miscarriage of justice. Even worse, the Big Horn County Sheriff’s Office has told the family they will not investigate her murder because she died “of natural causes.” Healthy, eighteen year old girls, however, do not lay down at the corner of a busy suburban intersection, die, and then lay there unnoticed for five days (Kaysera went missing on August 24 but was not found until August 29). Kaysera’s body was discovered at the corner of Mitchell Ave. & Rangeview Dr. on August 29, by a resident of the neighborhood, when he went for his daily jog. He told law enforcement that had her body been there for five days straight, he would have noticed her before August 29. The autopsy dates her death as days before August 29 (and based on the food contents in her stomach, most likely the early morning of the 25), and it is clear that whoever murdered Kaysera dumped her body at this busy intersection corner on August 29. This is more than enough to command an investigation.

I realize the initial lack of investigation was not your fault, as you were not in office in 2019. However, you are Sheriff now, and you have the opportunity to correct your predecessor’s failure to investigate Kaysera’s homicide. With the help of the MMU, Kaysera’s family could finally see justice.

Big Horn County Montana has one of the highest rates of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons in the entire United States. Cooperating with the MMU on this investigation would send a strong signal that it is no longer business as usual in Big Horn County. It is time for things to change. It is time for murderers to be brought to justice.

 Sincerely,