September 5, 2023

**VIA EMAIL [AND/OR MAIL]**

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen

215 N Sanders, Third Floor
PO Box 201401

Helena, MT 59620-1401

contactdoj@mt.gov

Attorney General Knudsen,

In August 2019, 18-year-old Kaysera Stops Pretty Places was murdered in Big Horn County, Montana. Four years have passed and your office, the Big Horn County Sheriff’s Office, and the FBI have yet to investigate—letting Kaysera’s murder go unpunished and preventing Kaysera and her family from getting the justice they deserve. It is your duty to ensure this crime is investigated; it is your responsibility to bring Justice for Kaysera.

Kaysera went missing on August 24, 2019 in a suburban neighborhood of Hardin, Montana, less than a half mile from Crow Reservation boundary. On August 29, her body was found in that same neighborhood. Law enforcement knew they had found Kaysera’s body, but did not tell the family that Kaysera’s body had been found until September 11—causing the family to hopelessly search for almost two weeks.

Days before Kaysera went missing, she filmed and posted to social media the beating of her 15-year-old brother by law enforcement at Crow Fair. The officers beating the minor in a wheelchair included Big Horn County deputies. There is reason to believe that one of the Big Horn County Sheriff’s deputies under investigation for the scene filmed by Kaysera was a responding officer when her body was discovered. Also, the Big Horn County Coroner Terry Bullis took Kaysera’s remains to his personal funeral home and coerced her family into cremating her remains, going against the family’s cultural beliefs and destroying any critical evidence that could have further aided the criminal investigation your office needs to undertake.

Despite the suspicious circumstances surrounding Kaysera’s death, your office, the Big Horn County Sheriff’s Office, and the FBI have done absolutely nothing to investigate. Kaysera’s family has provided the authorities with tips and evidence to aid the investigation, yet they continue to be ignored. As Montana Attorney General, it is your responsibility, not Kaysera’s family, to ensure this miscarriage of justice comes to an end.

The State of Montana has the fourth highest rate of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (“MMIWG”) in the country. There have been over ninety MMIWG (including Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons) in Big Horn County alone. The Montana Department of Justice cannot continue to sit idly by while our daughters are being taken from us. You cannot ignore the crisis plaguing your state like your predecessors before you.

Four years have passes since Kaysera’s murder. It is time for you to do your job and enforce the laws of the State of Montana—investigate Kaysera’s murder, prosecute Kaysera’s killer, and finally bring Justice for Kaysera.

Please contact the family of Kaysera immediately to let them know your office will finally fulfill its lawful duty to protect and preserve the lives of Native women living in Montana.

 Sincerely,