

SENT VIA EMAIL

Sheriff Lawrence Big Hair
Big Horn County Sheriff's Office
lbighair@bighorncountymt.gov

August 30, 2020

Sheriff Lawrence Big Hair,

My name is [INSERT HERE]. I am a resident of [INSERT HERE] and I am writing today to demand justice for Kaysera Stops Pretty Places.

On August 24, 2019, Kaysera Stops Pretty Places went missing in a suburban neighborhood of Hardin, Montana, less than a half mile off of the Crow Reservation. On the morning of August 29, her body was found in that same neighborhood. Your office did not inform the family that Kaysera's body had been found until almost two weeks later, on September 11—although you knew they were looking for her because her family had filed a missing person's report more than two weeks before, when she went missing. The 13 day delay in notifying the family demonstrates your apathy and lack of regard for Kaysera and her family.

At every step of the way, the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office has failed Kaysera and her family. First, no missing person's report was filed when Kaysera's family reported her missing to the Sheriff's Office. When her body was found, there was no report of the discovery of a Jane Doe body by law enforcement nor was the media notified.

Next, your office allowed the County Coroner Terry Bullis to steal Kaysera's body and take her to his personal funeral home before she was even identified. His abuse of his role as the Big Horn County Coroner to benefit his funeral home is a pattern that your office has enabled.

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. The U.S. Attorney's Office investigated the incident and officers were reprimanded. There is reason to believe that one of your deputies who was under investigation for the scene filmed by Kaysera was a responding officer when her body was discovered.

Your office did not care to investigate the suspicious circumstances of Kaysera's death nor were you concerned with the officer's obvious inappropriate involvement. As a result, her family gathered evidence and tips on their own. Even when the family did the job of your office and shared the evidence they found, still no investigation occurred. Instead, your office has relied on lies and misrepresentations to excuse your failure to investigate. Immediately following her death, your office claimed it would not investigate her death, claiming she died from a drug and alcohol overdose. When the autopsy showed that this conclusion was impossible, you still refused to investigate. According to your office, a healthy eighteen year old girl died of "natural causes" in a busy suburban neighborhood on the evening of August 24, 2019, and then laid there,

decaying, in a neighbor's yard until five days later, when on August 29 a morning jogger discovered her body in this bustling suburban neighborhood. There simply is no way her body lay in that suburban neighborhood for five days straight, unnoticed, and it is clear that those responsible for her murder placed her body there during the early morning hours of August 29. But you have refused to investigate.

You have let Kaysera's heinous murder go unpunished right under your nose and have demonstrated that you do not care for the lives of Native women and girls in your community.

The Big Horn County Sheriff's Office has an extensive track record of ignoring the murders of Native people and thus the policies and protocols of the Office must be changed. Today, Big Horn County has one of the highest rates of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women ("MMIW") in the entire United States. Your failure to investigate Kaysera's murder demonstrates why. So long as criminals can murder and kill our Native women and girls with impunity, they will continue to do so. Shame on you for failing to do your job. Shame on you for not valuing the lives of our Native women and girls. Shame on you for letting murderers walk free in Big Horn County.

The incompetency and lack of respect of the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office has caused Kaysera's family irreparable damage and immense heartache. The actions of the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office are inexcusable and it is time for your countless failures to be corrected.

The entire Nation is watching to see if the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office will finally do its job and investigate the murder of Kaysera Stops Pretty Places. On the one year anniversary of her disappearance and murder, there can be no more excuses. We are all watching. It is time for you to do your job.

Sincerely,
[INSERT YOUR NAME HERE]