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Statement of Gloria Allred

Today, William Hoehn was sentenced. Although a jury found him not guilty of conspiracy to commit murder of 22-year-old Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, he was sentenced today on his previous plea of guilty to conspiracy to kidnap Savanna's baby, Haisley Jo.

Mr. Hoehn's girlfriend and co-defendant Brooke Crews, previously pled guilty to conspiracy to commit murder and conspiracy to commit kidnapping. She was previously sentenced to life in prison for her crimes against Savannah and Haisley Jo.

Today, Savanna's family expressed their victim impact statement to the court. Previously, they provided a victim impact statement at the sentencing of Brooke Crews.

Finding words to express the enormous loss and pain that Joe, Norberta and their children have suffered has not been easy. Just being in the same courtroom with Hoehn and Crews and seeing them alive, while knowing that they will never see their beautiful daughter again because of the horrific crimes the defendants committed against her is more painful than words can ever describe.

Compounding the pain that Savanna's family has suffered was how the Fargo Police Department handled or appeared to mishandle the search for Savanna and Haisley Jo.

Savanna went to the apartment of Brooke Crews and William Hoehn at 1:30pm on August 19, 2017, after defendant Crews offered eight month pregnant Savanna \$20 to help sew a dress.

At 2:30pm, Savanna's mother, Norberta, became concerned that Savanna had not returned home. Savanna's brother and then her father went to the Crews-Hoehn apartment to look for her but were not permitted to enter the apartment.

At 4:30pm, Norberta called the police. The police searched the Crews-Hoehn apartment twice that day and once the following day.

They failed to find Savanna's body, which was hidden inside a chest of drawers there, nor did they find the baby, Haisley Jo, who was hidden in a bed. At some point, Hoehn was able to take Savanna's body wrapped in garbage bags and plastic and dump her in the Red River. Crews was able to take the baby out of the apartment, but ultimately on August 27, 2017, the police found the baby there after receiving a tip that Hoehn had told someone at his workplace that his "girlfriend" Brooke, had just had a baby. A search warrant was then obtained and pursuant to it the apartment of Crews and Hoehn was searched, resulting in the rescue of the baby, who has now been returned to her father.

A number of questions arise regarding the police search. The most important question is how could the police have searched and failed to find Savanna's body and the baby earlier?

These questions demand answers. Fargo's Police Chief David Todd reportedly stated that the first three searches that the police did were consent searches and that since they did not have a search warrant, they were limited in their search inside of the apartment. The Police Chief argues that in those searches that there was not enough of a criminal nexus to obtain the search warrant and further that they were searching for Savanna and hoped that she was alive. He indicated that their search was conducted differently than it would have been if they had thought that they were searching for someone who was deceased.

That response is outrageous. Why should they have engaged in an assumption that Savanna was still alive? Her wallet and keys were still in her parents apartment below. She was very close to her family and had not called or texted them.

It has been reported that the police searched inside a kitchen cabinet. Why did they not search inside a chest of drawers where Savanna's body was hidden?

This was not a large apartment. Why did they reportedly miss looking at the far side of the bed? How could they have missed finding the baby days earlier when the baby was hidden in the bedding?

Why was there not 24 hour surveillance of the apartment so that neither Savanna's body nor the baby could have been removed? At some point both were removed by the defendants.

Many individuals in the Native American community have expressed a concern that the police do not have the same concern about missing, deceased or injured Native American women that they would have about victims who are Caucasian.

The way that the search for Savanna was conducted simply deepens the mistrust that many feel in law enforcement.

The Fargo Police Chief should stop making excuses and stop trying to justify a search that in my opinion should be considered an embarrassment to the Police Department.

It is long overdue for the Police Chief to apologize to Savanna's family for the additional suffering that they endured for the days that Savanna and Haisley Jo were not located.

In addition, there should be an extensive review of law enforcement protocols, so that what happened in the search for Savanna and Haisley Jo never happens again.

Norberta and Joe Greywind want to be sure that if any other pregnant Native American woman goes missing that there is a prompt, professional and thorough search done as soon as possible.

It is important that everyone in the community feels that they are receiving equal protection under the law and that if their loved ones are missing or are potentially the victims of violence, including murder, that finding them will be a priority.

We look forward to Fargo Police Chief David Todd's reply.

Gloria Allred

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