

Subject: URGENT: Demand for Independent Investigation into the Fatal Shooting of Cole Stump

Dear Attorney General,

We are writing to formally demand an immediate and independent state-level investigation into the October 12, 2020, police killing of Cole Forrest Stump in Billings, Montana. Cole Stump was a 29-year-old father of five and a member of the Chippewa-Cree Tribe. A review of the case facts reveals a disturbing pattern of forensic anomalies, evidence tampering, and procedural obstruction that renders the initial local investigation wholly unreliable.

The timeline of the incident raises immediate red flags. Police arrived at 10:26 PM for a report of “suspicious activity” involving a man working under a car hood. By 10:31 PM—just five minutes later—Cole Stump was dead after being struck by multiple rounds of police gunfire.

The forensic discrepancies discovered in this case suggest a coordinated effort to obscure the truth:

- **Post-Mortem Use of Force:** Computer logs show a Taser was deployed five minutes after the shooting occurred. This is corroborated by the autopsy, which confirmed no vital hemorrhage at the Taser probe sites, indicating Cole’s heart had already stopped when he was tased.
- **Systemic Tampering with Records:** Dispatch (CAD) logs were edited four years after the incident. Fire department response audit logs show significant deletions, additions, and changes. Furthermore, camera audit logs were edited to change officer names, and while video footage was provided, critical GPS metadata was stripped.
- **False Statements Regarding Unit Presence:** While local police have claimed Unit 1428 was not at the scene, dashcam footage definitively shows the vehicle arriving at 10:26 PM.
- **Destruction of Physical Evidence:** Eleven shots were fired, yet only ten casings were sent to the lab. More egregiously, the firearm allegedly found at the scene was test-fired by investigators before it was checked for DNA or fingerprints. This procedural failure effectively destroyed any evidence that could have proven whether Cole Stump ever possessed the weapon.
- **Gross Medical Neglect:** Instead of attempting to save a life, officers photographed Cole’s body before medical help arrived. No CPR was performed.

The path to justice has been systematically blocked. Two weeks prior to the coroner’s inquest, the family provided authorities with witness information; however, police claimed they could not locate these witnesses to testify. When the family attempted to seek transparency through public records requests, the City responded by blocking their email addresses.

The level of evidence manipulation and the documented lack of transparency make it clear that a fair investigation cannot be conducted at the local level. As the state’s chief law enforcement

officer, it is your responsibility to ensure that no agency is above the law.

We demand that your office open an independent investigation into the death of Cole Stump and the subsequent handling of evidence by the Billings Police Department. The five children Cole left behind, and the public at large, deserve an honest accounting of what occurred on October 12, 2020.

We look forward to your prompt response regarding the steps your office will take to ensure accountability.

Sincerely,

[Your Name/Organization]