SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY
prevention ~ protection ~ enforcement

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September 1, 2021

HAND DELIVERED

The Honorable Spencer Gosch
Speaker of the House
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: HR 7001

Dear Speaker Gosch:

Pursuant to instructions by Governor Noem, as Cabinet Secretary for the South Dakota Department of Public Safety, I am providing you with an external hard drive containing the investigative materials relating to the crash that occurred in Hyde County on September 12, 2020. During this crash, Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg struck and killed Joseph Boever.

The investigators' conclusions as to the events of that evening, which were based on the evidence contained in the materials I am providing to you, were challenged publicly by Mr. Ravnsborg prior to entering into his plea agreement. In doing so, Mr. Ravnsborg, while still serving as the attorney general, made a number of assertions that disparaged the work and reputation of the law enforcement agencies involved in this investigation. On behalf of all the law enforcement personnel involved in this investigation, I categorically reject Mr. Ravnsborg's characterizations.

In my opinion as a 24-year law enforcement officer, and in the opinion of the highly trained highway patrol officers involved in this investigation, Mr. Ravnsborg should have been charged with 2nd Degree Manslaughter. The prosecution team was well aware of that position. The South Dakota Highway Patrol stood ready and willing to provide expert testimony regarding the crash and the facts of this investigation at trial, a position that was also made clear to the prosecutor.

Politics never entered into this investigation. The law enforcement officers and professionals involved in this investigation, which also included experienced personnel from North Dakota, Minnesota, and a crash reconstruction expert from Wyoming, did so with the highest levels of professionalism. As you will see from the investigation materials, which are summarized below, our team investigated all leads, thoroughly collected evidence, spoke to dozens of possible witnesses, and examined all possibilities. This investigation was done correctly by all involved.

Immediately below is an annotated table of contents for the investigatory file. The full file is being provided with the understanding that you will limit any further distribution to only those individuals directly involved in your impeachment process. As you will see, the information I am providing contains only minimal redactions, which in each case encompass either other open investigations or security matters unrelated to the Ravnsborg crash investigation.

The external hard drive contains the following:

1. ND Report 1:
    a. Initial BCI Report by Joe Arenz – 09/15/20 (4 Pages)
        i. No attachment

2. ND Report 2:
    a. Scene Assist report by Pat Helfrich – 09/15/20 (3 Pages)
        i. No attachment

3. ND Report 3:
    a. Scene Processing/Interview with Sheriff Mike Volek Report by Joe Arenz – 09/28/20 (8 pages)
        i. Attachment: Evidence Inventory and Receipt (1 page)

4. ND Report 4:
    a. Drone Photos and Pix4d Animations Report by Alex Droske – 10/05/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment: Photos and Drone footage folders (333 Photos & 2 Videos)

5. ND Report 5:
    a. Initial Scene Processing Report by Michael Mees – 10/05/20 (5 pages)
        i. Attachment: Initial Scene Photos Folder (373 photos)

6. ND Report 6:
    a. Cell Phone Processing Report by Cassidy Halseth – 10/06/20 (9 pages)
        i. Attachment: 3 Consent to Search Forms for cell phones (1 page each)

7. ND Report 7:
    a. Scene Processing Report by Arnie Rummel – 10/13/20 (5 pages)
        i. Attachment: Highway Patrol Appointment (2 pages)

8. ND Report 8:
    a. Autopsy Report by Scott Voeltz – 10/14/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Provisionary Autopsy Report by Ramsey County (2 pages)
            2. Evidence Inventory and Receipt (3 pages)
            3. Autopsy Photos (122 photos)

9. ND Report 9:
    a. Vehicle Processing Report by Michael Mees – 10/14/20 (5 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Evidence Inventory and Receipt (2 pages)
            2. Hughes County Search warrant (2 pages)
            3. Digital Photos of vehicle (268 photos)

10. ND Report 10:
    a. Jason Ravnsborg First Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/14/20 (10 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Video Recording of Interview with Jason Ravnsborg
            2. Audio Recording of Interview with Jason Ravnsborg (1:07:02 in length)
            3. Email Containing Guest List (2 pages)
            4. Email Containing Name of Rooster's Waitress (1 page)
            5. Email Containing Photographs of Red Tags (1 page)
            6. Photograph of Jason Ravnsborg's Vehicle
            7. Consent to Search for Skid Test (1 page)
            8. Consent to Search for LG Stylo 5+ (1 page)
            9. Photograph of Broken Eyeglasses

11. ND Report 11:
    a. Anna Johnson Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/14/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachment: Audio Recording of Anna Johnson Interview (21:19 in length)

12. ND Report 12:
    a. Tim Bormann Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/15/20 (5 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Audio Recording of Tim Bormann Interview (26:11 in length)
            2. Video Recording of Tim Bormann Interview (29:56 in length)
            3. Screenshots of Text Messages (3 photos)

13. ND Report 13:
    a. Jennifer Boever Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/16/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment: Audio Recording of Jennifer Boever Interview (9:28 in length)

14. ND Report 14:
    a. 2011 Ford Taurus Search Warrant Report by Joe Arenz – 10/16/20 (4 pages)
        i. No attachment

15. ND Report 15:
    a. 2011 Ford Taurus iVe Extraction Report by Pat Helfrich – 10/19/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment: iVe Report for 2011 Ford Taurus (24 pages)

16. ND Report 16:
    a. Secondary Scene Processing Report by Michael Mees – 10/19/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Evidence Inventory and Receipt (1 page)
            2. Scene Photos (22 photos)
            3. Scene Drone Footage (22 videos)

17. ND Report 17:
    a. David Natvig Interview Report by Pat Helfrich – 10/20/20 (4 pages)
        i. No attachment

18. ND Report 18:
    a. Hyde County Sheriff's Department Reports by Joe Arenz – 10/20/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachment: Hyde County Sheriff's Department Reports (9 pages)

19. ND Report 19
    a. Victor Nemec Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/20/20 (5 pages)
        i. Attachment: Audio Recording of Victor Nemec Interview (30:18 in length)

20. ND Report 20:
    a. Jason Jones Interview Report by Pat Helfrich – 10/20/20 (4 pages)
        i. No attachment

21. ND Report 21:
    a. Dispatch Recordings and Logs Report by Joe Arenz – 10/20/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Audio Recording of the 911 Call (2:22 in length)
            2. Audio Recording of Call from Dispatch to Sheriff Volek (1:14 in length)
            3. Audio Recording of Call from Sheriff Volek to Dispatch (1:01 in length)
            4. Central South Dakota Communications Center Dispatch Log (11 pages)

22. ND Report 22:
    a. Cell Phone Exam Report by Cassidy Halseth – 10/20/20 (10 pages)
    b. Report 22-Cell Phone Extraction Cell Phone Exams
        i. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #1-Cellebrite HTML Report
        ii. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #2-Cellebrite HTML Report
        iii. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #3-Magnet Forensics Axiom HTML Report
        iv. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #4-Cellebrite HTML Report
        v. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #5-Magnet Forensics Axiom HTML Report
        vi. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #6-Cellebrite HTML Report
        vii. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #7-Magnet Forensics Axiom HTML Report
        viii. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #8-Cellebrite HTML Report
        ix. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #9-Magnet Forensics Axiom HTML Report
            1. Report.html contains dead links for iOS iMessage_SMS_MMS-9_13_2020 12_14_23 AM. The redacted message is contained in the file named "Chat preview report"
        x. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #10-Cellebrite HTML Report
        xi. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #11-Magnet Forensics Axiom HTML Report
            1. Report.html contains a dead link for iOS iMessage_SMS_MMS-9_13_2020 12_14_23 AM. The redacted message is contained in the file named "Chat preview report"
        xii. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #12-Cellebrite HTML Report (empty)
        xiii. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #13-Magnet Forensics Axiom HTML Report
            1. Report.html contains dead links for iOS iMessage_SMS_MMS-9_13_2020 12_14_23 AM and iOS iMessage_SMS_MMS-9_14_2020 4_53_59 PM.html. The redacted messages are contained in the file named "Chat preview report"
        xiv. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #14-Cellebrite HTML Report

xv. 2000536-429CH-Attachment #15-Magnet Forensics Axiom HTML Report

23. ND Report 23:
    a. Latent Blood Collection on Highway 14 Report by Joe Arenz – 10/21/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Evidence Inventory and Receipt (1 Page)
            2. Jeramie Quam's Photographs Folder (9 photos)
            3. S/A Troy Kelly's Photographs Folder (17 photos)
            4. Drone Photographs of Designated Areas (15 photos)
            5. Troy Kelly's Photographic Log (1 page)

24. ND Report 24:
    a. Toxicology Report by Joe Arenz - 10/21/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. NDBCI Evidence Inventory and Receipt (1 Page)
            2. Crime Laboratory Evidence Inventory (1 Page)
            3. Crime Laboratory Evidence Receipt (1 Page)
            4. Copy of Toxicology Submission Form (1 Page)
            5. Toxicology Alcohol/Volatiles Analytical Report (7 Pages)
            6. Toxicology Carboxyhemoglobin Analytical Report (7 Pages)
            7. Toxicology Drug Analytical Report (7 Pages)

25. ND Report 25:
    a. Latent Blood Collection on Ford Taurus Report by Joe Arenz – 10/22/20 (5 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Evidence Inventory and Receipt – Pills (1 page)
            2. Evidence Inventory and Receipt – Vehicle Samples (1 page)
            3. Photographs of Headlight Bulb (8 photos)
            4. SA Troy Kelly's Photographs (32 photos)
            5. SA Jeramie Quam's Photographs (14 photos)
            6. Affidavit and Search Warrant (11 pages)
            7. SA Troy Kelly's Photographic Log (2 pages)
            8. Order to Seal Affidavit (1 page)

26. ND Report 26:
    a. Georgette Cermak Interview Report by Arnie Rummel – 10/23/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment: Georgette Cermak Interview audio (9:49 in length)

27. ND Report 27:
    a. Joseph Boever's Personal Property Report by Joe Arenz – 10/23/20 (2 Pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Evidence Inventory and Receipt (1 Page)
            2. Photographs of Personal Effects (50 photos)
            3. Ramsey County Receipt (1 page)

28. ND Report 28:
    a. Janet Kopecky Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/23/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachment: Audio Recording of Janet Kopecky Interview (13:37 in length)

29. ND Report 29:
    a. Brent Gromer Statement Report by Arnie Rummel – 10/26/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment: Statement by Brent Gromer (2 pages)

30. ND Report 30:
    a. Lincoln Day Dinner Witness Interview Report by Arnie Rummel – 10/26/20 (6 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Arrival and Departure Video (2 videos)
            2. JASON RAVNSORG's Receipt (1 page)
            3. Chessa Quenzer Interview (18:17 in length)
            4. Chessa Quenzer Diagram (1 page)
            5. Brock Greenfield Interview (21:24 in length)

31. ND Report 31:
    a. Nicole Baloun Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/26/20 (2 pages)
        i. Attachment: Audio Recording of Nicole Baloun Interview (4:19 in length)

32. ND Report 32:
    a. Peggy Taylor/Dean Taylor Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/28/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Audio Recording of the Interview with Peggy Taylor (12:17 in length)
            2. Audio Recording of Dean Taylor Interview (8:06 in length)
            3. Photograph of Text Message (1 photo)

33. ND Report 33:
    a. Shalon Arenholz Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/28/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment: Audio Recording of Shalon Arenholz Interview (6:47 in length)

34. ND Report 34:
    a. Matison Taylor Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/28/20 (3 pages)
        i. No attachment

35. ND Report 35:
    a. Larry Nielson Interview Report by Arnie Rummel – 10/28/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment: Audio Recording of Larry Nielson Interview (7:35 in length)

36. ND Report 36:
    a. LG Stylo 5+ Cellebrite Advanced Services Report by Cassidy Halseth – 10/28/20 (5 pages)
    b. Report 36-Ravnsborg LG Stylo 5+cellbrite advanced services
        i. Magnet Forensics Axiom HTML Report
            1. Report.html contains dead links for Facebook Messenger Messages-9_14_2020 9_04_43 AM.html. The redacted messages are contained in the file named "Chat preview report"

37. ND Report 37:
    a. Richard Ravnsborg Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/28/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachment: Audio Recording of Richard Ravnsborg Interview (8:44 in length)

38. ND Report 38:
    a. Sheriff Mike Volek 2nd Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/29/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachment: Audio Recording of Sheriff Mike Volek Interview (20:59 in length)

39. ND Report 39:
    a. JASON RAVNSBORG 2nd Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 10/29/20 (16 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Spreadsheet of Phone Activity
            2. Redacted Interview Video (02:10:16 in length)

40. ND Report 40:
    a. Flashlight Lab Analysis Report by Joe Arenz – 10/29/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. NDBCI Evidence Inventory and Receipt (3 Pages)
            2. Crime Laboratory Evidence Inventory (1 Page)
            3. DNA Evidence Information Sheet (1 Page)
            4. Biological Screening Laboratory Report (5 Pages)
            5. DNA Laboratory Report (6 pages)
            6. Crime Laboratory Evidence Receipt (1 Page)
            7. Crime Laboratory Submission Report (1 Page)
            8. Crime Laboratory Evidence Return Sheet (1 Page)

41. ND Report 41:
    a. South Dakota Highway Patrol In-Car Videos Report by Joe Arenz – 11/03/20 (2 pages)
        i. Attachments: 3 SDHP In Car video of the scene.

42. ND Report 42:
    a. Photo Enhance Report by Derek Madsen – 11/03/20 (3 Pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Bookmarked images of the Enhancement (5 photos)
            2. AMPED Five Report (10 pages)

43. ND Report 43:
    a. Photo Comparison Report by Derek Madsen – 11/03/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Bookmarked images of the Comparison (5 photos)
            2. AMPED Five Report (10 pages)

44. ND Report 44:
    a. Interview Verbatims Report by Joe Arenz – 11/04/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. JASON RAVNSBORG Interview September 14, 2020 (54 pages)

2. JASON RAVNSBORG Interview September 30, 2020 Redacted (117 pages)

45. ND Report 45:
    a. Photo Recreate Report by Derek Madsen – 11/04/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Bookmarked images of the Comparison (5 photos)
            2. Apple iPhone XR Report (533 pages)
            3. AMPED Five Report (17 pages)

46. ND Report 46:
    a. Final Autopsy Report by Joe Arenz – 11/05/20 (2 pages)
        i. Attachment: Ramsey County Medical Examiner Autopsy Report (8 pages)

47. ND Report 47:
    a. James Lappe Interview Report by Arnie Rummel – 11/16/20 (4 pages)
        i. Attachment: Diagram of Stop Area After Crash (1 page)

48. ND Report 48:
    a. SD Highway Patrol Crime Scene Mapping Report by Joe Arenz – 11/20/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment:
            1. AG Crash Map (1 page)
            2. Crash Area Zoomed (1 page)
            3. Crash Area (1 page)
            4. AG Crash Final (CAD Program required to read)

49. ND Report 49:
    a. Doctor Kelly Mills Information Report by Arnie Rummel – 11/25/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Report (2 pages)

50. ND Report 50:
    a. Surveillance Video Report by Derek Madsen – 11/30/20 (2 pages)
        i. Attachment:
            1. AMPED Five Report (8 pages)
            2. Bookmarked Images of Enhancement (4 photos)

51. ND Report 51:
    a. Letter to Pennington County State's Attorney Report by Joe Arenz – 12/02/20 (3 pages)
        i. Attachment:
            1. Copy of Envelope (1 page)
            2. Copy of Letter (8 pages)
            3. Evidence Inventory and Receipt (1 page)

52. ND Report 52:
    a. Miscellaneous Interview Report by Joe Arenz – 12/09/20 (8 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Audio Recording of Matthew Samp Interview Part 1 (00:00:50 in length)

2. Audio Recording of Matthew Samp Interview Part 2 (00:00:16 in length)
3. Audio Recording of Kristie Fiegen Interview (00:12:28 in length)
4. Audio Recording of Scott Odenbach Interview (00:11:50 in length)
5. Audio Recording of Stephanie Kozol Interview (00:15:12 in length)
6. Audio Recording of Thomas Wollman Interview (00:20:07 in length)

53. ND Report 53:
    a. DVR Video Recovery Report by Jesse Smith – 12/09/20 (3 pages)
        i. No attachment

54. ND Report 54:
    a. Lab Analysis Report by Joe Arenz – 10/10/20 (6 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Crime Laboratory Evidence Receipt (2 pages)
            2. DNA Evidence Submission Forms (2 pages)
            3. Supplemental Biological Screening Laboratory Report (20 pages)
            4. Supplemental DNA Laboratory Report (20 pages)
            5. Crime Laboratory Evidence Return (2 pages)
            6. Crime Laboratory Inventory and DNA Information Sheets (15 pages)
            7. NDBCI Evidence Inventory and Receipt Form (9 pages)

55. ND Report 55:
    a. Miscellaneous Surveillance Videos Report by Joe Arenz – 12/11/20 (5 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Video Footage from Appel's Quick Stop from September 12, 2020
            2. Video Footage from Hoffman Trenching Inc. from September 12, 2020
            3. Video Footage from Mashek's Food Center from September 12, 2020

56. ND Report 56:
    a. Secondary Laboratory Analysis Report by Joe Arenz – 01/06/21 (3 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Email Chain from Prosecutor (2 pages)
            2. Supplemental DNA Laboratory Report (19 pages)

57. ND Report 57
    a. Digital Media Search Warrants and Follow-Up Report by Cassidy Halseth – 01/20/21 (7 pages)
        i. No attachment

58. ND Report 58
    a. SD Highway Patrol Report by Joe Arenz – 03/10/21 (2 pages)
        i. Attachment:
            1. SD Highway Patrol Report (404 pages)

59. ND Report 59:
    a. Barnabas Nemec Interview by Joe Arenz – 03/11/21 – (6 pages)
        i. Attachments:

1. Email from Barnabas Nemec to Emily Sovell (3 pages)
2. Audio Recording of Interview with Barnabas Nemec (1:07:55 in length)

60. ND Report 60
    a. Evidence Return Report by Joe Arenz – 03/11/21 (4 pages)
        i. Attachments:
            1. Crime Laboratory Evidence Return Sheet (2 Pages)
            2. Updated NDBCI Evidence Inventory and Receipt Forms (13 Pages)

61. Cell Phone Data (From ND Reports 22 and 36)

62. Law Enforcement Videos and Case Reports

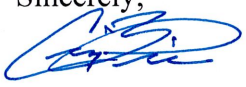
63. Property – Evidence

64. SD Highway Patrol In-Car Videos

65. SDHP Reports

In the Department's view, while this letter is a public record, the investigatory file is not subject to disclosure as a public record during the pendency of the House's investigation under SDCL 1-27-1.5(5). However, in the event you conclude the investigation file is in fact subject to release as a public record while in your custody, either in whole or in part, I would urge you, pursuant to SDCL 1-27-1.5(22), to redact those portions that may result in the unreasonable release of personal information relative to unrelated third-parties or medical information concerning Mr. Boever.

Sincerely,



Craig Price, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Public Safety

Enclosures

cc: Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg (via email)