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Mr. James Mueller  
Mayor, City of South Bend  
227 West Jefferson Boulevard  
Suite 1400 N.  
South Bend, IN 46601

*Sent via email to: [mayormueller@southbendin.gov](mailto:mayormueller@southbendin.gov)*

Dear Mayor Mueller:

I appreciate our conversation last week. After speaking with you, it's clear how much you truly care about your community and your desire to heal and move forward. Other mayors should take note.

A significant amount of time, effort, investigation, research and writing went into the final report (Findings) that was submitted to Judge Broden, the judge who appointed me. It was my work and the work of a team I put together to assist in this important appointment. As you and I discussed, my Findings were filed and are accessible to the public. Further, I made myself available for questions the day the Findings were released. I know you're aware that there is a pending civil lawsuit in federal court with multiple parties named and a pending criminal case against Ryan O'Neill. Given the thorough and complete investigation and analysis contained in the Findings, combined with the pending legal matters in state and federal court, I believe it is prudent upon me to rely specifically on those Findings and the information contained therein.

I appreciate all of the assistance from Metro Homicide and the South Bend Police Department throughout this. I wish you and your city the best and hope the conclusion of this matter furthers the healing there.

Very truly yours,

  
Richard J. Hertel

RJH:jks