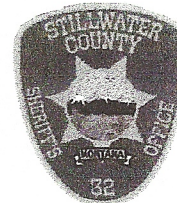




**STILLWATER COUNTY
OFFICE OF SHERIFF/CORONER**

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Clifford D. Brophy, Sheriff/Coroner

Charles E. Kem, Undersheriff/Deputy Coroner

October 19, 2016

Rich Cowger, Fire Chief
Columbus Fire
944 E Pike Ave
Columbus, MT 59019

Re: Formal response to letter alleging improper dispatch procedures

Dear Fire Chief Cowger,

First and foremost, I do not look unfavorable upon someone that files a complaint about my office. I have always given due consideration to complaints that have been filed with my office. The incidents that you specifically list in the letter were being addressed even prior to your letter. Like any other inquiry, it was handled in accordance with county and office policy. The results were made public and can be reviewed in the local Stillwater County Newspaper.

I understand you have strong opinions as suggested by your letter. Because much of the letter deals with confidential personnel issues and potential litigation issues, I will not answer your letter in detail. I categorically deny any wrong doing by the Stillwater County Sheriff's Office. I categorically deny your opinion of "improper dispatching process" by the Stillwater County Sheriff's Office.

You have my commitment that I will continue to diligently work with your department and all other departments in Stillwater County to work together in a positive manner as an endeavor to better our public service.

Sincerely,

Clifford Brophy
Stillwater County Sheriff/Coroner

Cc: Nancy Rohde, Stillwater County Attorney