

TO: City Administrator Trout; City Attorney Meyer; Mayor Bookmeyer; Councilperson Weaver;
Councilperson Tornquist; Councilperson Marsters; Councilperson Hickey; Councilperson Nelson;
Councilperson Solberg

SUBJECT: Mason City Police Department and missing person Jodi Huisentrut

DATE: May 27, 2011

Dear City of Mason City Representatives:

I am supplying you with copies of correspondence between the Mason City Police Department and myself regarding the unsolved case of Jodi Huisentrut. This material is straightforward and self-explanatory, factual and unbiased. Whether you were elected, appointed, or hired, you have a responsibility to the citizens of Mason City to objectively consider and take action on the enclosed complaint, as it is serious in nature.

In summary, information was supplied to me in regard to the Jodi Huisentrut death and/or disappearance, a case that remains unsolved to this day. Please see the enclosed Citizen Complaint Form dated April 28, 2011. As per my civic duty, I forwarded this information to multiple officers within the MCPD in July 2007. As a result of unrelated litigation against the City, I now have proof that this information was ignored, discarded, lost, or suppressed. I have worked hard and been diligent to guarantee that this information was handled properly, both in 2007 as well as now. As you can readily see, neither the Chief of Police nor the department he oversees is interested in the proper handling or investigation of this information. Why is this?

It is important to note that the bottom of the Mason City Police Department letterhead reads as follows: *"The mission of the Mason City Police Department is to partner with our citizens to ensure that Mason City remains a peaceful and friendly place where families can raise their children and citizens can earn a living while feeling safe and secure, and everyone feels welcome and respected."*

It has been my experience that the MCPD has no interest in "partnering" with the City's citizens in order to create an atmosphere of "safety and security," and what I have put before you is a prime example of that. The phrase "To Serve and Protect" so boldly stated on our City's police cruisers should mean something to a citizen such as myself. When a citizen, who cares for our City, brings a valid complaint to the attention of the local authorities, that citizen expects, even deserves, something to be done about it. It is unprofessional, unethical, and immoral to dismiss the concerns of our City's populace so lightheartedly. I have often asked myself how the Huisentrut family will feel or what actions they will undertake when they are made aware of this timeline of events, and what they will think of the Mason City Police Department's deliberate disregard for the pursuit of justice in regard to their missing loved one. We are all aware of the national attention that this case has gathered.

The Mason City Police Department Operations Manual states in the "Performance of Duty" section, that the following are considered a neglect of duty: *(1) Failing to take appropriate and necessary police action; (4) Failing to make a written report when such is indicated; (8) Failing to thoroughly search for, collect, preserve, and identify evidence in an arrest or investigative situation.* It is clearly evident these expectations were not, and presently are not, being met. It is additionally offensive that the Chief of Police would so indiscriminately dismiss a matter of this magnitude with the words, "This matter is now closed."

The "Moral Conduct, Adherence to Law" section of the MCPD Operations Manual also states, *"The public demands that the integrity of its law enforcement officers be above reproach, and the dishonesty of a single officer may impair public confidence and cast suspicion upon the entire Department."* This is exactly what will happen when the public ultimately gains knowledge of this issue. Finally, this statement is located in the "Courtesy" section of the manual: *"Effective law enforcement depends on a high degree of cooperation between the Department and the public it serves. The practice of courtesy in all public contacts encourages understanding and appreciation; discourtesy breeds contempt and resistance."*

Representatives, I am placing the responsibility for this matter into yours and the public's hands. There are no words that can accurately convey my severe disappointment of how the Chief of Police and the Mason City Police

Department have handled this situation. Perhaps "travesty of justice" is a start. Every member of any media and news outlet that I have spoken to in confidence about this subject can clearly see the problem; I have every confidence you will see it also, and take the appropriate action. I have been left with no other recourse than to bring this important issue to your attention. What are you going to do about it?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Shane Philpott", written over a series of overlapping loops.

Pastor Shane Philpott
Christian Fellowship Church
1181 15th Street SW
Mason City, Iowa 50401
641-423-0000

cc/ Melissa C. Hasso, Attorney - Sherinian, LeGrant & Hasso Law Firm
cc/ Agent Larry Hedlund - Department of Criminal Investigation
cc/ Federal Bureau of Investigation - Omaha Division
cc/ Brent Trout - City Administrator
cc/ Tom Meyer - City Attorney
cc/ Eric Bookmeyer - Mayor
cc/ Max Weaver - At-Large Councilperson
cc/ Scott Tornquist - At-Large Councilperson
cc/ Jeff Marsters - First Ward Councilperson
cc/ Travis Hickey - Second Ward Councilperson
cc/ Don Nelson - Third Ward Councilperson
cc/ Janet Solberg - Fourth Ward Councilperson
