

STATEMENT CONCERNING BRENDEN KIEKISZ

As the family of Brenden Kiekisz continues to grieve the devastating loss of their 27-year old son while in the custody of the Cuyahoga County jail, serious questions remain as to the circumstances of just how this senseless tragedy came to pass.

By ignoring repeated grievances, obvious warnings, internal and external complaints, and directives given by the US Marshals Service on conditions within the County's jail, the County bears responsibility for their failure to provide medical and mental health care as well as basic living conditions as required by law and human decency.

It is inconceivable that a young man such as Brenden could have lost his life in the Cuyahoga County Jail considering the scrutiny the County is under. Cuyahoga County has clearly been on notice that they were not operating a facility in compliance with the United States Constitution, yet they failed to take the steps necessary which could have saved Brenden's life.

Brenden's family deserves answers to these questions and they deserve justice.

However, at this moment their focus remains on the loving son, brother, nephew, and friend that Brenden was to them, while they honor his memory through their never-ending grief. Finally, on behalf of Brenden's family, I would like to say how much they appreciate the extraordinary expressions of support from so many people and for keeping them in their thoughts and prayers.

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