FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from Mayor Mike Nelson regarding the Public Safety Incident on August 23

Our community is heartbroken by the tragic loss of life resulting from the horrific events that occurred in Billings this weekend. On behalf of the City of Billings, I extend my deepest condolences to the families, friends, neighbors, and all those affected by this unimaginable tragedy. Billings is a strong and caring community, but this week we mourn. The loss of so many lives, especially the loss of children, is felt by all of us.

Authorities have confirmed that multiple adults and children lost their lives in what investigators have described as a private family incident.

Our Public Safety employees are facing many difficult tasks associated with the response to the immediate aftermath and the ongoing tasks that must be completed following these difficult incidents. I am grateful for the swift response of the Billings Police Department, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office, Billings Fire Department, and all the partnering agencies as they continue their investigation and provide support to those affected.

Profound grief touches all of us as information continues to be shared. We keep in mind the urgent actions of the first responders, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, and medical personnel. We thank the investigators and their staffs whose tireless efforts are being called upon to confront this terrible situation. As this investigation remains active, we will allow law enforcement the time and space necessary to determine the facts and ensure a complete accounting of what occurred.

In moments like these, as we search for ways to respond, we are reminded that our City's strength lies in our compassion for one another. I encourage all Billings residents to keep those touched most deeply by this tragedy in their hearts. We may all be grieving, so I ask that we grant our community, and ourselves, the patience, generosity of spirit, gentleness, and resolve to heal together.

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