



Tom Bearson (Victim) Death Investigation



Ten years ago, we lost an aspiring, young member of our community. Tom Bearson was found deceased at the Moorhead RV Sales parking lot, located at 3002 24th Ave. S., Moorhead, MN. He was 18 years old and had just entered his first year at North Dakota State University (NDSU). Tom was last seen with friends and fellow students in the early morning hours of September 20th, 2014, at an NDSU off-campus residence. Later that morning, law enforcement was contacted when Tom did not show up for a ride to visit family in Alexandria, MN. Three days later, Tom's remains were discovered. We continue to grieve his loss.

Investigators with the Moorhead Police Department, with assistance from the Clay County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have worked diligently to follow up on every tip. We remain open to all possible scenarios regarding Tom's death and continue to pursue every investigative avenue. Recent advancements in DNA technology have led us to review evidence previously collected for the purpose of utilizing this technology.

For those who already assisted in this investigation, thank you for your cooperation. We will likely be asking for your help again as we continue to seek answers. It is our belief there is information regarding Tom's time at NDSU and the circumstances surrounding his death which has not yet been shared. Individuals familiar with what happened may have exhibited changes of behavior, to include:

- Altering of physical appearance (change in hair color or cut, growth or removal of facial hair, etc.)
- Change in normal routine, which might include missing work, classes, or appointments
- Unexplained injuries (cuts on hands, bruises, etc.) during the period Tom was last seen alive and then recovered
- Sudden departure from the area after Tom's death
- A change in someone's mood or displays of anxiety, nervousness, or irritability
- Cleaning of vehicles
- Intense interest or noticeable disinterest in the investigation or an unexplained knowledge of the situation

It is often the case people have information but do not come forward because they feel it may not be important or may have previously been shared. Additionally, people may be hesitant to provide information due to close relationships with those who may have been involved or out of concern for their own safety or reputation. People may also be unknowingly brought into a situation by others. Relationships and loyalties can change, as do people and their perspectives.

Regardless of how insignificant you think your information might be, or whether you think we are already aware of it, please contact us. We have a designated phone line and email address for you to share your information. Please contact us at **218-299-5119**, email bearson@moorheadmn.gov. To send an anonymous tip via text message to the Moorhead Police Department, text the keyword **TIPMOORHEAD** and your tip to **847411**

Captain Deric Swenson
Moorhead Police Department