



KRIS MAYES
Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Via Email

June 10, 2024

Honorable Kimberly Yee
Arizona State Treasurer
1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 102
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Sunshine Residential Homes Investigation

Dear Treasurer Yee,

I am in receipt of your letter of earlier today asking the Attorney General's Office to reconsider accepting jurisdiction of the Sunshine Residential Homes investigation.

As you know, last Wednesday Senator T.J. Shope, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, asked the Attorney General's Office "to examine the facts surrounding the Department of Child Safety's alleged decision to approve a nearly 60% rate increase for Sunshine Residential Homes and determine if conduct by any of the involved parties warrants a criminal or civil investigation." [Letter from Sen. T.J. Shope to Attorney General Kris Mayes (June 5, 2024)].

The following day, Criminal Division Chief Counsel Nick Klingerman informed Sen. Shope that the "Attorney General's Office will be opening an investigation" to "investigate the allegations and offenses outlined in your letter." [Letter from Nick Klingerman to Sen. T.J. Shope (June 6, 2024)]

The Criminal Division of the Attorney General's Office was created to investigate and prosecute complex crimes, organized crime, multi-county cases, and public corruption. In fact, the Arizona State Grand Jury, which only the Attorney General and her assistant attorneys general can attend, is specifically tasked with investigating the crimes you outline in your letter. A.R.S. § 21-422(B).

Given that expertise, the Attorney General's Office is the State's primary law enforcement entity who would conduct this type of investigation you are requesting in your letter. It is why the Legislature has specified just last year that "[t]he attorney general shall supervise the prosecution off all offenders under this section." A.R.S. § 41-1279.04(F).

The over 200 employees in the Criminal Division have all taken an oath to uphold Arizona's Constitution and its laws. They are non-partisan, professional, and dedicated to obtaining justice for the people of Arizona. I trust that you appreciate the brave work Arizona's law enforcement does to protect our state and residents every day, including those at the Attorney General's Office. We are fully committed to a professional, thorough, and prompt investigation into Sunshine Residential and its interactions with the State of Arizona.

As with any other investigation our office conducts, we will follow the facts wherever they lead us. As with everything else we do, we are also fully cognizant of our ethical obligations and have taken appropriate measures to protect the interests of all concerned, including directing the Department of Child Services to obtain outside counsel in this matter

Finally, I will note that while you are certainly always welcome to express your personal concerns to me, nothing about the matters Sen. Shope has asked us to investigate are remotely related to any of your statutory duties as set out by A.R.S. §41-172.

Thank you for your letter. You can be assured that the Attorney General's Office will do a thorough, complete and prompt investigation of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kris Mayes", with a stylized, flowing script.

Kris Mayes
Arizona Attorney General

CC: Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell