



## ***Morenci Police Department***

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***"Protection Through Superior Service"***

*Larry Joe Weeks*

*Chief of Police*

Press Release 12/16/2010

The Morenci Police Department continues to receive tips regarding this case. As of today, we have received approximately 900 tips. Included in those tips are a number of suspected sightings. Each of these tips is prioritized and thoroughly vetted. As of this time we have been unable to confirm that any of them are the Skelton boys.

In regards to the investigative process, a task force comprised of several members from the Michigan State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation has been establish and continue to work in support of the Morenci Police Department to assist with the investigation. Additional resources from each of these agencies have been and will continue to be called upon as needed to ensure that we swiftly respond to information as it develops.

Citizens can help with our investigation by reporting any sightings of John Skelton's van or John and the boys, between Thanksgiving day at approximately 2:30pm and Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November at 1:30pm. Information developed indicates between the hours of 430am and 645am on the 26<sup>th</sup>, John may be been traveling with the boys in the van. The tip line remains 517-458-7104

In more recent developments, a show cause hearing was held today at 8:15am in Circuit Court of Lenawee County before the Honorable Judge Margaret Noe regarding the suspect John Skelton's failure to comply with the custody order. This is a civil hearing and is an independent process of the criminal proceedings. In the course of that hearing John stated under oath that the children were with a "community" and declined to tell Judge Noe their whereabouts. John was order by the Judge to be held, pending compliance with that civil custody order. More details regarding that hearing can be obtained by contacting the Lenawee County Circuit Court.

We have continued to receive calls from interested parties wanting to contribute money towards a reward fund. Our Mayor, Keith Pennington, has begun the process of initiating the collection process for that reward fund. There remains a \$10,000 reward from an anonymous donor for the return or recovery of Andrew, Tanner and Alexander but it is our community's desire to further the financial motivation for someone to come forward that may have information regarding this case. I have attached a document with more details regarding that reward process. Our community would like to thank the employees of Powers and Son's LLC in Montpelier, OH for taking up a donation and being the first to contribute the fund.

Respectfully,  
Larry Joe Weeks  
Chief of Police