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Updated December 12, 2014

Search for Ayla has been costly

WATERVILLE -- The cost of investigating the disappearance of toddler Ayla Reynolds has been substantial.

BY BEN MCCANNA



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WATERVILLE — The cost of investigating the disappearance of toddler Ayla Reynolds has been substantial.

“I would say it’s in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, and I wouldn’t be surprised if it exceeded \$500,000,” said Police Chief Joseph Massey.

Four months ago, on the morning of Dec. 17, the child, 20 months old at the time, was reported missing by her father, Justin DiPietro. Since then, multiple law enforcement agencies have been heavily involved in the search, which included hundreds of searchers on the ground, dive teams and boats on the water, planes in the air and a mobile forensic lab at the Violette Avenue home where Ayla was last seen.

“It is one of the more intense investigations that have taken place (in Maine) in decades,” said Department of Public Safety Spokesman Steve McCausland. “As a result, there is a cost factor there.”

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