

Bricks and Minifigs of Keizer Oregon Stole an 80 year old man's LEGO Star Wars Collection

I am writing to you with great concern over what has transpired at a LEGO sponsored Bricks and Minifigs store in Keizer, OR. My father who is 83 years old and myself have been building a massive Star Wars LEGO collection over the course of the last 15 years. LEGO was a toy we shared when I was a kid, and he wanted to share it with his grandchildren. He chose LEGO as an investment and began purchasing sets and figures to be kept new and in box, so that one day they could be sold to help pay for the grandkid's college education. In total we had collected over 780 sets and 1200 minifigures.

In October of 2023, I took this collection into the Keizer, OR. Bricks and Minifigs location to consign with the store and create a contract for them to sell it over the next year or so. After meeting with the owner, Chrystal Law (Now Chrystal Gorman after getting married this year), we gave her close to 40 sets to take with her and sell at the comic con in Portland as sort of a test run. The reactions were great, and the sales went well so we felt it was a good fit to consign with her. After working a contract out and transporting all the sets down to the Salem/Keizer area, we had a big unveiling that was covered in the local press, social media posts, and a line of people out the door to see this once in a lifetime collection. You can find plenty of posts on social media still regarding this. Every month after that I would go in on the 15th and pick up a stack of receipts and a check along with the notes for how many mini figs and how many sets were sold. (I still have all the receipts and an account with the money in it)

Everything was going great until November of 2024. I tried contacting Chrystal on the 14th, 15th, and the following Monday the 18th with no response. I then tried calling the store up that Thursday to see if I could reach her and was told by the person that answered the phone that she was no longer with the company and the new owner was Brandon Best. The Bricks and Minifigs Corporation had some sort of disagreement with the store franchise owner and decided to come in and seize the store and all of the merchandise. The problem is, they seized my collection which did not belong to them at all. They were told about this collection and never reached out to us for over a week. (We have included store security cam footage with volume where you can literally hear Chrystal saying I have not been paid yet for this month's sets, and Brandon turns his phone on speaker so you can hear corporate say, "Well Chrystal, when it comes to the Mansell consignment, that is a deal with the business, and since Brandon will be taking the business over, he will be taking over the consignment as well." During the time they did not contact me, it appears they removed any identifying stickers or tags we had on the items and continued to sell our sets. When I finally became aware of the situation and let Brandon know, his first response, and lie, was to play dumb and say he had never heard about it. I told him I had contracts in place, video footage, and this is a well documented set that people knew about, so I drove down to the store and produced all the documentation including the contracts and inventory lists, as well as showing them the video and footage of the collection. I explained they were in possession of goods that did not belong to them that needed to be returned, they continued to lie and say they were unaware of any collection, that this video footage was the first time Brandon

had ever actually seen Chrystal in person as he was just a manager they brought up to take over the store. Then he changed his story and claimed I had no way of proving the sets are ours, and they considered the matter closed (This was also a lie by the way, proven by the fact Brandon is in the video talking to Chrystal in person and getting the keys from her, so he had most definitely met her before and knew of the collection). His story also changed again to say that Chrystal had stolen everything and left the store empty. Then the story changed again when his corporate partner came out from the back room and tried to say we would love to keep selling the stuff for you, but first we need to go after Chrystal for the money she owes the corporation, which has nothing to do with us or our collection. Essentially, they took over the store, stole our items, and don't think we have the time or resources to do anything about it. We called the cops that night and the store owners refused to let us see the back room where our collection was being stored. I told them if they were telling the truth and nothing was back there, simply allowing us back to see it would resolve this whole issue instead of costing everybody time and money and head aches. I asked him if that was really the way he wanted to handle it, and the owner stood there, crossed his arms and with a smirk said, "Yup! Take us to court"

We have reached out to local authorities as well as an attorney in trying to get this issue resolved, and so far, we have discovered the Bricks and Minifigs corporation has turned out to have a pattern up here in Oregon of seizing stores to steal assets according to other store owners (Keizer and Canby locations). Some of these incidents are currently being filed and under investigation. Any attempt to resolve the matter amicably with them has been met with a strong-arm response telling us to take a hike and they would be happy to go to court.

The police say it sounds like a civil matter even though we were told there was definitely criminal activity they could have taken action on that night we called them and could identify several sets that were ours, and instead they chose to do nothing. We have been in touch with several attorneys and drafted up several letters of cease and desist as well as a termination of contract notice, to which they have simply ignored. When we call the shop, we are hung up on. When Police spoke to Ammon, the CEO of the BAM company and made him aware, he lied and said they would go through inventory and of course help to find and return any items belonging to us, and then never did it. The corporate legal team instead ignored our attempts and simply responded to them saying they consider the matter closed again.

At this point we reached out to an attorney who told us it would unfortunately cost a minimum \$60k to put an injunction on the store and a cease and desist until they could go back and produce all receipts for the last 6 months as well as proof of purchase for any items (which they would not have been able to since they stole them from us). That amount is literally almost the entire amount our percentage would have been. So, we could spend all this money winning this battle, only to lose the war. Plus who has a minimum extra \$60k sitting around?

This has put a tremendous amount of distrust in the store chain, and LEGO community of which we were so actively involved in for years. We thought by bringing our collection to a store licensed to sell LEGO products it would be a safe and secure way to sell the collection while keeping it in the LEGO community. We will be doing everything we can through social media, news outlets, and through legal channels to make sure we get the word out about what is happening in the hopes that the community will help step up and make this right. Furthermore, I would hope LEGO sees this or hears about it, and steps in to make these guys do what is right. As a company centered around family values, I would hope this type of behavior is not tolerated. Unfortunately when I wrote LEGO about it, they distanced themselves from any sort of association with BAM and said they are absolutely not affiliated with them in any way. So I don't see them helping in the future.

At the end of the day, I just want either a fair payout for the collection, the collection back, or the store itself run out of town if they don't want to do what is right. I have mentioned to you before and want to be sure I reiterate, that we really do not want this getting back to our Father, as it could impact his health. We don't want people calling him to investigate or anything. If needs be, I should be made the point of all contact, but if there is any way to try and do this as anonymous as possible, and just shine a light on what these guys did, that would be preferred. I understand though if it needs to be known who I am, I just hope you understand the concern over our Dad's health regarding this matter.

Thank you again for any and all help you can offer. It truly means a lot to us considering what we have seen so far from the authorities and the lack of support from the legal field.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mansell