

February 3, 2026

Hon. Pamela Bondi  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

cc: The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader Majority  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Attorney General Bondi,

We, the undersigned former U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ or the Department) prosecutors, represent [TOTAL YEARS OF DOJ SERVICE/STATES COVERED BY SIGNATORIES LIST]. We write to express our collective concern about DOJ's handling of the recent fatal officer-involved shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

According to public reporting, the Department has prevented Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) from investigating these incidents by refusing to share evidence with and investigate alongside BCA, as well as taking measures that prevent BCA from conducting its own investigation.<sup>1</sup>

Blocking a state law enforcement agency from investigating potential violations of state law in its own jurisdiction would mark a severe departure from established DOJ norms and pose a serious threat to the rule of law.

We urge the Department to follow decades of established, bipartisan practices of cooperation and deconfliction between federal and state authorities in officer-involved use-of-force investigations. To do so, DOJ should preserve and share all evidence with BCA; refrain from hindering any part of BCA's investigation; and work cooperatively with BCA, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, and other local authorities so that both federal and state investigations of the shootings may proceed.

On January 7, 2026, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent shot and killed Ms. Good in Minneapolis during a federal immigration enforcement action branded "Operation Metro Surge."<sup>2</sup> DOJ

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<sup>1</sup> *Minn. Bureau of Criminal Apprehension & Hennepin Cnty. Attorney's Office v. Noem*, No. 0:26-cv-00628 (D. Minn. Jan. 24, 2026); Aune T. Frølich, "Minnesota Officials Say They Can't Access Evidence After Fatal ICE Shooting and FBI Won't Work Jointly on Investigation," PBS NewsHour, January 8, 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/minnesota-officials-say-they-cant-access-evidence-after-fatal-ice-shooting-and-fbi-wont-work-jointly-on-investigation>.

<sup>2</sup> Sam Raim, "The ICE Killing of Renee Nicole Good Is a Watershed Moment for Trump," Vera Institute of Justice, January 21, 2026, <https://www.vera.org/explainers/the-ice-killing-of-renee-nicole-good-is-a-watershed-moment-for-trump>.

subsequently announced that it found “no basis for a criminal civil rights investigation.”<sup>3</sup> Fewer than three weeks later, on January 24, DHS agents shot and killed Mr. Pretti, after which federal agencies asserted that Mr. Pretti was armed and “violently resisted” federal law enforcement.<sup>4</sup> In both cases, the chief state prosecutor with jurisdiction over these matters, Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty, made clear her office’s commitment to ensuring a thorough state-level investigation of the incidents can proceed.<sup>5</sup> Likewise, Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O’Hara has specifically requested BCA’s assistance to investigate.<sup>6</sup>

However, according to public reporting, when BCA personnel arrived to begin their investigation of the police-involved shooting of Alex Pretti, federal authorities ordered them to leave, denying them access to the crime scene and the evidence contained therein.<sup>7</sup> As the below signatories can attest from more than XX years of collective experience as federal prosecutors, the DOJ has authority neither in the law nor in generally accepted law enforcement investigatory practices of officer-involved shootings to prevent BCA from conducting its own investigation in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the U.S. Attorney’s Office, and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division.

Under well-established principles of dual sovereignty, both federal and state authorities may investigate and prosecute the same incident under their respective laws.<sup>8</sup> According to the FBI, “State and local law enforcement agencies are not subordinate to the FBI, and the FBI does not supervise or take over their investigations.”<sup>9</sup> It is standard practice for federal and local authorities to investigate cases in tandem, preserve and share evidence, and deconflict law enforcement activities in pursuit of just results.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Greg Wehner and Louis Casiano, “Justice Department Declines Civil Rights Investigation into Minneapolis ICE Officer Killing,” Fox News, January 13, 2026, <https://www.foxnews.com/us/justice-department-declines-civil-rights-investigation-minneapolis-ice-officer-killing>.

<sup>4</sup> Joshua Barajas, “A Second U.S. Citizen Was Killed by Federal Forces in Minneapolis. Here’s What We Know,” PBS NewsHour, January 26, 2026, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/a-second-u-s-citizen-was-killed-by-federal-forces-in-minneapolis-heres-what-we-know>.

<sup>5</sup> Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty, “Message from Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty on State and Local Law Enforcement Jurisdiction,” Hennepin County Attorney’s Office, January 23, 2026, <https://www.hennepinattorney.org/news/news/2026/January/community-questions>; and Hennepin County Attorney’s Office and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, “Hennepin County Attorney’s Office and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension File Lawsuit to Prevent Destruction of Evidence in Partnership with Minnesota Attorney General’s Office,” Hennepin County Attorney’s Office, January 24, 2026, <https://www.hennepinattorney.org/news/news/2026/January/hcao-bca-mnago>.

<sup>6</sup> Joey Peters, “Minneapolis Officials Say Feds Haven’t Shared Information with Them About Nicollet Avenue Shooting,” Sahan Journal, January 24, 2026, <https://sahanjournal.com/public-safety/minneapolis-ice-shooting-nicollet-avenue-brian-ohara-jacob-frey>.

<sup>7</sup> Frølich, “Minnesota Officials Say They Can’t Access Evidence,” 2026.

<sup>8</sup> *Gamble v. United States*, 587 U.S. 678, 681 (2019).

<sup>9</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, “Frequently Asked Questions,” FBI, accessed January 27, 2026, <https://www.fbi.gov/about/faqs>

<sup>10</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, “How Does the FBI Interact with Other Federal Law Enforcement Agencies?” accessed January 28, 2026, <https://www.fbi.gov/about/faqs/what-is-the-fbi-doing-to-improve-its-interaction-with-other-federal-law-enforcement-agencies>

From our collective expertise and experience as federal prosecutors, it is highly unusual for federal authorities to block a state investigative agency from investigating a potential crime in its own jurisdiction—particularly in high-stakes matters involving an officer’s use of deadly force. Preventing BCA—and effectively preventing the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office—from investigating the deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti would undermine cooperative law enforcement frameworks that exist to deliver accuracy, accountability, and public confidence in the rule of law and its impartial application. If the Department’s ultimate assessments of these two shootings reflect confidence that the actions of the involved officers were lawful and justified, there should be no objection to independent state review of both incidents.

No matter which party sits in the White House, DOJ plays a crucial role in ensuring that the American people can trust the justice system to preserve our foundational values of life and liberty. The well-being of the country seems to now sit on a knife’s edge, with President Trump acknowledging that de-escalation is necessary<sup>11</sup> to avoid further loss of life, property, and trust in our institutions.

For this to happen, DOJ should allow a transparent, unbiased, and impartial investigation into both shootings, including by sharing evidence with BCA and refraining from preventing BCA or local prosecutors from conducting independent investigations.

Sincerely,

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<sup>11</sup> Hamed Aleaziz, David E. Sanger, and Chris Cameron, et al., “Trump Faults Pretti For Carrying Gun but Says He Wants ‘Honest’ Inquiry,” *New York Times*, January 27, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2026/01/27/us/minneapolis-shooting-ice-minnesota>.