

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 22, 2026

The Honorable Harmeet Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Dhillon:

On January 7, 2026, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent fatally shot Renee Good in Minneapolis, Minnesota.¹ Two days later, you announced the Division would not investigate the fatal incident—despite the reported request of career prosecutors in your office to do so and despite the leading role your office normally assumes in investigating potential violations of 18 U.S.C. 242.²

Your decision not to investigate the ICE agent’s conduct is a marked departure from past administrations of both parties, which historically have taken swift action to open civil rights reviews of many fatal interactions with law enforcement.³ These investigations have been conducted even when criminal charges were considered unlikely.⁴

According to public reporting, multiple career prosecutors in the Division offered to lead an inquiry into the shooting.⁵ Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, second-in-command at the Department of Justice (DOJ), reinforced your decision to take an investigation off the table when he publicly claimed there was “no basis” for a civil rights probe into Ms. Good’s death.⁶ His assertion is contradicted by a Federal Bureau of

¹ See Elaine Okyere, *Video Emerges of Minneapolis Shooting Filmed by ICE Agent Who Opened Fire*, BBC (Jan. 10, 2026), <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cz7yv4524gqo>.

² See Richard Luscombe, *Federal Prosecutors Quit in Protest Over Lack of Investigation into ICE Shooting*, Guardian (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/13/doj-attorneys-resign-minneapolis-ice-shooting>; Andrew Goudsward and Mike Spector, *DOJ Handling of Minnesota Shooting Probe Prompts Prosecutor Departures, Sources Say*, REUTERS (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/doj-civil-rights-lawyers-resign-part-over-sidelining-minnesota-shooting-probe-2026-01-13/>.

³ See Greg Wehner and Louis Casiano, *DOJ Says ‘No Basis’ for Civil Rights Investigation into Minneapolis ICE Officer Killing*, FOX NEWS (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/justice-department-declines-civil-rights-investigation-minneapolis-ice-officer-killing>; Christy Lopez, *The Civil Rights Division: The Crown Jewel of the Justice Department*, 130 YALE L.J.F. 467-468 (2021).

⁴ See Wehner and Casiano, *supra* note 3.

⁵ See Luscombe, *supra* note 2.

⁶ See Wehner and Casiano, *supra* note 3.

Investigation agent's determination—after an initial review—that sufficient grounds existed to open a civil rights investigation into the ICE agent who shot Ms. Good.⁷

After you informed Division personnel that you would not consider opening an investigation into whether the ICE agent violated federal law, several career prosecutors—including the head of the Criminal Section, which is responsible for these investigations—accelerated planned departures from the Division.⁸

Instead of investigating Ms. Good's killing, DOJ has announced the U.S. Attorney's office in Minnesota would investigate alleged connections between Ms. Good and her widow and groups that have been monitoring ICE activity in Minneapolis.⁹ DOJ ordered federal agents to conduct its investigation without Minnesota's local authorities.¹⁰ Refusing to share investigative materials or permit a joint investigation is highly unusual.¹¹ Six lawyers from the U.S. Attorney's office in Minnesota have also resigned in protest of this investigation.¹²

Your decision not to investigate Ms. Good's killing reflects a trend in the Division under your leadership of ignoring the enforcement of civil rights laws in favor of carrying out President Trump's political agenda. This trend, combined with apparent political interference in investigative and prosecutorial decisions, undermines public trust, the legitimacy of our institutions, and the rule of law. We urge you to listen to career prosecutors and open a civil rights investigation into the death of Ms. Good.

Sincerely,

⁷ See Perry Stein, *FBI Opened Probe on Minneapolis Shooting; None Exists Now, Justice Dept. Says*, WASHINGTON POST (Jan. 19, 2026), <https://wapo.st/4sPtGBo>.

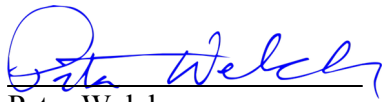
⁸ See Suzanne Monyak and Benn Penn, *Top DOJ Lawyers Exit in Latest Civil Rights Unit Upheaval*, BLOOMBERG LAW (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/top-doj-prosecutors-resign-in-latest-civil-rights-unit-upheaval>; Ernesto Londoño, *Six Prosecutors Quit Over Push to Investigate ICE Shooting Victim's Widow*, NY TIMES (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/13/us/prosecutors-doj-resignation-ice-shooting.html>.

⁹ See Londoño, *supra* note 8.

¹⁰ See Evan Perez and Hannah Rabinowitz, *Trump Administration Efforts to Shift Blame for ICE Shooting Wreak Havoc on Minnesota U.S. Attorney's Office*, CNN (Jan. 13, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/13/politics/resignations-minnesota-prosecutors-trump-ice-shooting>.

¹¹ See Juliana Kim, *How the Feud Between Trump and Minnesota is Impacting the Probe Into the ICE Shooting*, NPR (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/14/nx-s1-5676324/minnesota-ice-shooting-investigation-fbi-renee-macklin-good>.

¹² See Londoño, *supra* note 8.



Peter Welch
United States Senator



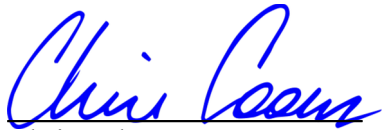
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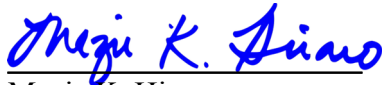
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