

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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January 26, 2026

The Honorable Pamela J. Bondi
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Bondi:

Federal agents have now gunned down and killed two American citizens—Renée Good and Alex Pretti—in Minneapolis. Videos taken by bystanders who observed and documented these killings leave little doubt that there is no legal or moral justification for these cold-blooded homicides. Yet, under your leadership, the Department of Justice (DOJ)—an agency created in 1870 at the height of post-Civil War Reconstruction to enforce the civil rights of all Americans—actively obstructed any investigation into these killings, and instead of defending the civil rights of Americans, now appears to be covering up the most egregious civil rights offenses and systematically condoning the lawless killing of Americans by agents of the government.

On January 24, 2026, U.S. Border Patrol agents shot a 37-year-old Minneapolis man, Alex Jeffrey Pretti, at least ten times as he was beaten up by multiple agents swarming him on the ground. Mr. Pretti, an intensive care unit (ICU) nurse who cared for veterans, had been exercising his First Amendment rights by observing and filming federal agents as they conducted their spreading reign of terror across his community. Rather than commit to investigate this outrageous killing, senior Administration officials launched immediately into a propaganda campaign filled with lies and posthumous character assassination. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) claimed Mr. Pretti “approached” agents with a firearm and that he wanted to “massacre law enforcement,” though video evidence shows him holding only his phone; Stephen Miller called Mr. Pretti an “assassin” who “tried to murder federal agents,” but video evidence shows Mr. Pretti’s firearm (reportedly completely lawful under Minnesota’s open-carry law and the Second Amendment) being removed by a Border Patrol officer before his fatal shooting occurred.¹

¹ *Federal Agents Fatally Shoot Another Minneapolis Resident, Prompting Clash with Protesters*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 24, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/live-updates/reported-shooting-south-minneapolis-federal-agents-protesters/>; Daniel Dale, *What Trump Officials Claimed About Alex Pretti—and What the Evidence Actually Shows*, CNN (Jan. 25, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/25/politics/trump-officials-shifting-rhetoric-alex-pretti>.

The killing of Mr. Pretti came two weeks after a United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent, Jonathan Ross, killed Renée Good, a 37-year-old mother of three. In videos taken of that infamous incident, a masked Agent Ross walks around the front of the car to face Ms. Good who informs Agent Ross: “That’s fine, dude, I’m not mad at you.”² After another masked agent suddenly alights from his vehicle and aggressively orders Ms. Good out of the car, she backs up, and turns the wheels away from Agent Ross, who, contrary to standard law enforcement procedures,³ has placed himself in front of the car. Agent Ross moves out of the way of the moving car, but not before pausing to unholster his firearm and fire a shot at Ms. Good. Agent Ross then can be seen firing at least two more shots through Ms. Good’s passenger window—at a time when Agent Ross was unequivocally standing to the side of the car, not in front.⁴

After these shots were fired, Ms. Good, seriously wounded, lost control of her vehicle and crashed into a line of cars further up the street. Shortly thereafter, a doctor asked an ICE agent whether he could check Ms. Good’s pulse. The ICE agent responded, “No! Back up!” When the doctor repeated that he was a physician, the ICE agent responded, “I don’t care” and continued to block access to Ms. Good, who was left bleeding and alone in her vehicle.⁵ More than six minutes after shots rang out, local emergency services finally arrived, determined Ms. Good still had a pulse, and attempted to administer life-saving care.⁶

When a law enforcement officer uses excessive or unlawful force, they may be prosecuted under federal civil rights laws as well as state laws for manslaughter, murder, and assault. Most notably, under federal law, it is a crime for one or more persons acting under color of law to willfully deprive or conspire to deprive another person of any right protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States.⁷ The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), responsible for reviewing such violations, investigates not only law enforcement shootings, but also instances where an officer recognizes a “serious medical need, but knowingly and willfully denies or prevents access to medical care.”⁸ DOJ’s Civil Rights Division also typically vigorously investigates and, where the evidence permits, prosecutes allegations of constitutional

² Hannah Ziegler, et al., *What We Know About the Fatal ICE Shooting in Minneapolis*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 12, 2026), www.nytimes.com/2026/01/07/us/ice-shooting-minneapolis-renee-good.html.

³ Craig Stapp, *Stay Out of the Way*, POLICE: THE LAW ENFORCEMENT MAGAZINE (Apr. 2006), at 56-60, <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/stay-out-way>.

⁴ *Video Analysis of ICE Shooting Sheds Light on Contested Moments*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 17, 2025), www.nytimes.com/2026/01/15/video/ice-shooting-renee-good-minneapolis-videos.html.

⁵ Malcom Ferguson, *New Evidence Reveals Renee Good Was Still Alive When ICE Blocked Medic*, NEW REPUBLIC (Jan. 16, 2026), <https://newrepublic.com/post/205373/evidence-renee-good-still-alive-ice-blocked-medic>.

⁶ Kerem Inal, et al., *Minneapolis ICE Shooting: A Minute-By-Minute Timeline of How Renee Nicole Good Died*, ABC 7 (Jan. 9, 2026), <https://abc7.com/post/minneapolis-ice-shooting-minute-timeline-how-renee-nicole-good-died/18379148/>.

⁷ 18 U.S.C. §§ 241, 242.

⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation, *What We Investigate*, <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

violations, including the First, Second and Fifth Amendments, by federal or state law enforcement officers.⁹

The Trump Administration, including the DOJ and FBI, has plainly abandoned its mission to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans. Instead of investigating Agent Ross for his shocking use of deadly force, or his fellow agents for denying potentially lifesaving medical care, you are instead investigating Ms. Good's widow for the absurd and pretextual charge of "interfering with" an ICE operation. The alleged "interference"? Apparently, based on the video, filming the killing of her partner.¹⁰

In refusing to hold ICE accountable for its indefensible conduct, DOJ overruled seasoned prosecutors and FBI agents who have consistently respected and abided by the DOJ mission and policy outlined above. In the immediate aftermath of Ms. Good's death, an FBI supervisory agent in Minnesota rightfully "conducted an initial review of the shooting and determined that sufficient grounds existed to open a civil rights probe into the actions of Jonathan Ross."¹¹ Yet, just days later, Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche reversed course and revealed on *Fox News* that DOJ was "not investigating" the shooting, stating: "We investigate when it's appropriate to investigate and that is not the case here."¹²

The refusal to investigate such a chilling police shooting flies in the face of what even *Fox News* has recognized to be a "longstanding precedent of swift civil rights investigations" into fatal officer-citizen encounters.¹³ Nearly a dozen career federal prosecutors have resigned or accelerated their departures in protest of this flagrant dereliction of duty, citing both DOJ's refusal to investigate Agent Ross and your Department's vicious and Orwellian insistence on prosecuting the victim's widow. These resignations include the second-in-command of the U.S. Attorney's Office for Minnesota, Joseph H. Thompson, who fearlessly prosecuted the wide-ranging fraud operation in Minneapolis—the pretext for ICE and Border Patrol's presence in the city—over the course of several years.¹⁴ These resignations have also reached the FBI: the supervisory agent who initially opened the civil rights

⁹ U.S. Department of Justice, *Law Enforcement Misconduct*, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/law-enforcement-misconduct> (last visited Jan. 26, 2026).

¹⁰ Ernesto Londono, *Six Prosecutors Quit Over Push to Investigate ICE Shooting Victim's Widow*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 15, 2026), www.nytimes.com/2026/01/13/us/prosecutors-doj-resignation-ice-shooting.html.

¹¹ Perry Stein, *FBI Opened Probe on Minneapolis Shooting; None Exists Now, Justice Dept. Says*, WASH. POST (Jan. 19, 2026), www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2026/01/18/fbi-minnesota-shooting-civil-rights-investigation/.

¹² Robert Mackey, *Justice Department 'Not Investigating' Renee Good Killing in Contrast to 2020 Inquiry on George Floyd Death*, THE GUARDIAN (Jan. 18, 2026), www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/18/justice-department-ice-renee-good-george-floyd-minneapolis.

¹³ Greg Wehner, *DOJ Says 'No Basis' for Civil Rights Investigation into Minneapolis ICE Officer Killing*, FOX NEWS (Jan. 13, 2026), www.foxnews.com/us/justice-department-declines-civil-rights-investigation-minneapolis-ice-officer-killing.

¹⁴ Ernesto Londono, *Six Prosecutors Quit over Push to Investigate ICE Shooting Victim's Widow*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 15, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/13/us/prosecutors-doj-resignation-ice-shooting.html>; Suzanne Monyak, *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>.

investigation into Ms. Good's shooting has also left the office, in yet another stunning rebuke of your and FBI Director Kash Patel's pathetic leadership.¹⁵

Not content to ignore the unjustified killing of Ms. Good and investigate her widow, DOJ has also blocked prosecutors and agents from cooperating with state law enforcement officials and prevented state officials from accessing evidence.¹⁶ Contrary to a long history of joint state and federal investigations in Minnesota, DOJ and FBI leaders have not publicly explained why they have taken this extraordinary step, which, depending on the underlying rationale, could constitute unlawful obstruction of a state law enforcement investigation.¹⁷

These attempts at obfuscation and interference have now been extended to the shooting of Mr. Pretti. Late Saturday night, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the state agency that typically takes the lead in investigating police shootings, sought and obtained an emergency court order from a federal judge that barred federal officials "from destroying or altering evidence" in the case.¹⁸ This extraordinary move underscores widespread concern that the federal government is destroying evidence and deliberately covering up a crime. Despite the court order, local officials are reportedly still being shut out of the investigation as federal officials refused to disclose basic information, such as the identity of the federal agents who shot Mr. Pretti.¹⁹

DOJ's coverup of these killings did not occur spontaneously or in isolation. Someone affirmatively ordered FBI agents to drop the civil rights investigation into Agent Ross. Someone affirmatively ordered federal law enforcement to instead investigate Ms. Good's widow. Someone affirmatively ordered line agents to block state prosecutors from accessing key evidence. Someone is now taking the same actions with regard to the killing of another American citizen.

The House Committee on the Judiciary has broad investigative authority over civil liberties, constitutional violations, and federal enforcement of criminal law. In light of DOJ's

¹⁵ Sarah N. Lynch, et al., *FBI Agent in Minneapolis Involved in Renee Good Probe Resigns*, CBS NEWS (Jan. 23, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/fbi-agent-minneapolis-renee-good-resigns/>.

¹⁶ *Id.*; Evan Perez & Hannah Rabinowitz, *What's Behind the Highly Unusual Move to Block Minnesota Officials from Investigating ICE Shooting*, CNN (Jan. 9, 2026), www.cnn.com/2026/01/09/politics/investigation-minneapolis-ice-shooting-deviates-police-shooting-playbook.

¹⁷ Federal officers are only shielded from prosecution under state criminal law when acting in their official capacity and "reasonably believe[] that their acts were necessary to perform their duties." *Wyoming v. Livingstone*, 443 F.3d 1211, 1221 (10th Cir., 2006) (citing *In re Neagle*, 135 U.S. at 75, 10 S. Ct. 658 (1890)). DOJ and FBI officials do not need to blockade state law enforcement from investigating a potential homicide "to perform their duties"; they need to blockade state law enforcement because the evidence reflects poorly on the Trump Administration.

¹⁸ *Minn. Bur. of Crim. Apprehension v. Noem*, No. 26-cv-628, Complaint (Jan. 24, 2026), <https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.mnd.230788/gov.uscourts.mnd.230788.1.0.pdf>; Ernesto Londono, *Once Again, Federal Officials Exclude Minnesota from Investigation of a Fatal Shooting*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 25, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/25/us/federal-exclude-minnesota-shooting-investigations.html>.

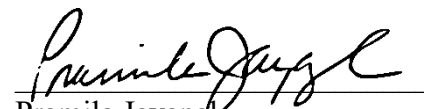
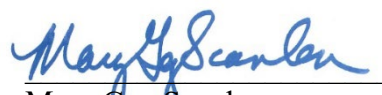

¹⁹ Ernesto Londono, *Once Again, Federal Officials Exclude Minnesota from Investigation of a Fatal Shooting*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 25, 2026), <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/25/us/federal-exclude-minnesota-shooting-investigations.html>.

outrageous efforts to avoid accountability for several federal officers' deprivation of rights under color of law, please provide all documents and information related to any investigation of Renée Good, her widow, or the events of January 7, 2026, in Minneapolis, including but not limited to communications with the Executive Office of the President, the FBI, and DHS. These documents and information should include information sufficient to show (1) who ordered the FBI to cease its investigation of Agent Ross or any ICE personnel for civil rights violations, and their reasons or justification for taking such an action; (2) who ordered the FBI to investigate Ms. Good's widow, and their reasons or justification for taking such an action; and (3) who ordered federal law enforcement not to cooperate with state authorities, and their reasons or justification for taking such an action.

Please also provide all documents related to the Border Patrol shooting of Mr. Pretti on January 24, 2026, including documents sufficient to show whether an investigation has been undertaken, and if not, who made that decision.

We look forward to your prompt compliance with these critical oversight requests by February 2, 2026.

Very truly yours,


Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
Pramila Jayapal
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration
Integrity, Security, and
Enforcement
Mary Gay Scanlon
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Constitution
and Limited Government
Surveillance
Lucy McBath
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Crime and
Federal Government

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman

The Honorable Tom McClintock, Chairman
Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

The Honorable Chip Roy, Chairman
Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government

The Honorable Andy Biggs, Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance