

From: [Choi, John](#)
To: [Kelly, John](#); [Nguyen, Hao Q](#)
Cc: [Gerhardstein, Dennis](#)
Subject: In the Matter of the Death of Howard Peter Holliday Johnson
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 3:19:23 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

John and Hao,

I have completed my review of relevant video and your memorandum summarizing the BCA's investigation *In the Matter of the Death of Howard Peter Holliday Johnson*, in which Saint Paul Police Sergeant Cody Blanshan used deadly force on December 5, 2022. In this critical incident, Sergeant Blanshan was responding to a report of a domestic assault as articulated in your memorandum. Your memorandum ultimately concludes that the use of deadly force by Sergeant Blanshan was justified under Minnesota law. I agree with your conclusion and appreciate the depth of your analysis and painstaking review of all the evidence gathered by BCA investigators. In addition, I appreciate the fact that we retained Jeff Noble, as a police use of force expert, to help us, and ultimately the public, better understand all the circumstances present in this officer involved fatality and tactics utilized by responding officers.

Please make sure that the BCA will take appropriate measures to release all public data from this investigation as quickly as possible. You can begin the process of notifying the family of Mr. Johnson of our decision and how they can obtain access to the investigative file as well as notifying Sergeant Blanshan and Saint Paul Police Chief Axel Henry. You may release the memorandum that you provided to me dated July 10, 2022, and this email documenting our office's decision in this matter. I have copied our office's Public Information Officer, Dennis Gerhardstein so he can take the necessary steps to inform the public of our decision.

Thank you.

John Choi (*he, him, his*)

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