

**From:** Choi, John  
**To:** Kelly, John; Nguyen, Hao Q  
**Cc:** Gerhardstein, Dennis; Melby, Cyndy  
**Subject:** In re: Death of Pepsi Lee Heint  
**Date:** Thursday, April 24, 2025 4:49:32 PM

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Dear John and Hao:

Thank you all for your hard work in providing me your written memorandum dated April 24, 2025, involving the officer-involved shooting that resulted in the death of Ms. Pepsi Lee Heint.

I have reviewed all the material you provided, I agree with your conclusion that the use of deadly force by Saint Paul Police Officers Chee Lao, Yengkong Lor, and Chiking Chazonkhueze was justified under Minnesota law and that no criminal charges can be brought against the police officers in this incident.

Like so many, this is a sad and tragic case for all of those involved. The events that transpired on May 6, 2024, will forever impact all of those that loved Pepsi Lee Heint and the three officers who had no other reasonable choice to do something different under these circumstances. We all wish there could have been a different outcome that did not have to involve the use of deadly force and with Pepsi Lee Heint losing her life.

It is critical that we take the time to properly, and with great care, communicate our decision to the family of Pepsi Lee Heint, who has lost someone they love.

With the decision now made, I would ask we execute on the following next steps:

1. Contact the Minnesota of Bureau of Apprehension to notify them that we expect the public portions of the investigative file be released to the public upon our decision becoming public or as soon as possible.
2. Please contact Pepsi Lee Heint's family members to inform them of our decision and answer questions.
3. Once that has been completed, please reach out to the attorneys representing the officers involved in this incident to inform them of our decision and answer questions. Please also communicate our decision to Saint Paul Chief Axel Henry.
4. I have also copied our public information officer to begin work on the public release of our decision and the written material associated with it including your 26-page staff memorandum. Obviously, public transparency is important and should be timed properly to make sure that those most impacted by our decision are informed before any information is communicated to the public.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to conduct a thorough and impartial review and provide us with an extensive and detailed memorandum setting forth your conclusions and recommendation.

John Choi