

**From:** [John Stiles](#)  
**To:** [Choi, John](#); [Kelly, John](#); [Nguyen, Hao Q](#); [Erin Eldridge](#); [David Voigt](#); [Zuri Balmakund](#)  
**Cc:** [Keith Ellison](#); [Gerhardstein, Dennis](#); [Melby, Cyndy](#)  
**Subject:** Re: In re: Death of Yia Xiong  
**Date:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 7:10:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear John, Hao, Erin, David, and Zuri,

Attorney General Ellison has asked me to reply on his behalf that he has read your memo and the expert use-of-force report and concurs in your conclusion that no charges can be brought under the law against the Saint Paul police officer involved in the death of Mr. Yia Xiong. He continues to hold Mr. Xiong and Mr. Xiong's family in his thoughts.

He also asked me to pass along his sincere thanks to you all for the hard work and long hours that you have put into this very challenging case. He also thanks community members for the focus they have kept, and have insisted he and County Attorney Choi keep, on Mr. Xiong.

Attorney General Ellison is grateful that County Attorney Choi entrusted him and his Office with reviewing this case along with the Ramsey County Attorney's Office. He takes the trust of county attorneys very seriously and stands at the ready to assist Ramsey County and any Minnesota county upon request in case review, charging decisions, and prosecution.

On behalf of Attorney General Ellison, thank you again.

John Stiles  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
Office of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison

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**From:** Choi, John <john.choi@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:55 PM  
**To:** Kelly, John <john.kelly@co.ramsey.mn.us>; Nguyen, Hao Q <hao.nguyen@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>; Erin Eldridge <Erin.Eldridge@ag.state.mn.us>; David Voigt <David.Voigt@ag.state.mn.us>; Zuri Balmakund <Zuri.Balmakund@ag.state.mn.us>  
**Cc:** Keith Ellison <Keith.Ellison@ag.state.mn.us>; John Stiles <John.Stiles@ag.state.mn.us>; Gerhardstein, Dennis <dennis.gerhardstein@co.ramsey.mn.us>; Melby, Cyndy

<Cyndy.Melby@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US>

**Subject:** In re: Death of Yia Xiong

Dear John, Hao, Erin, David, and Zuri,

Thank you all for your hard work in providing both Attorney General Ellison and me your written memorandum dated March 12, 2024, involving the officer involved fatality that resulted in the death of Mr. Yia Xiong. Along with that Memorandum, you also provided Jeff Noble's formal written report dated February 14, 2024. Attorney General Ellison is copied on this email, and we have both reviewed your memorandum and Mr. Noble's report. Over the course of this prosecution review, we also asked staff many questions and had many meetings, and we appreciate all of you answering those questions or finding the information we inquired about.

Both Attorney General Ellison and I have reviewed all the material you provided us, and we spoke on the phone yesterday to discuss your recommendations and our concurrence with your recommendations. We both agree with your conclusion that the use of deadly force by Officer Abdirahmin Dahir was justified under Minnesota law and that no criminal charges can be brought against the police officer in this incident.

Anytime deadly force is used against another person by the government, it is a tragedy for all of those involved and it requires people in our roles to seek the truth and do the right thing. I am deeply saddened by this case and wish that there could have been a different outcome with no one losing their life. It is critical that we take the time to properly, and with great care, communicate our decision to the family of Mr. Xiong, who has lost someone they love. Both Attorney General Ellison and I will make ourselves available for such a meeting.

With the decision now made, I would ask that both offices coordinate and 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. Through the civil attorneys representing Mr. Xiong's family, please set up a meeting with his family members so that we may inform them of our decision and answer questions.
3. Once that has been completed, please reach out to the attorney representing Officer Dahir to inform him of our decision and answer questions. Please also communicate our decision to Saint Paul Chief Axel Henry after your communication with Officer Dahir's legal counsel.

4. I have also copied communications staff in both offices to ask that they coordinate the public release of our decision and the written material associated with it including your 39-page staff memorandum, Jeff Noble's 10-page report, this email, and any reply that the Attorney General Ellison may add to this email. 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.

As you all know, this case is of significant interest with some members of our community, and it has taken longer than expected to get to the decision that we have made today. A big part of that was because of our interest in being thorough and making sure that we considered and resolved all the factual and legal issues associated with this investigation and prosecution review. 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** (*he, him, his*)

County Attorney | Administration Division

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**OFFICE OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY ATTORNEY**  
JOHN J. CHOI, COUNTY ATTORNEY

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