



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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August 10, 2023

Delivered via email

Dear Governor Tim Walz:

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) is the largest organization representing police and peace officers in Minnesota. Our 10,000+ members include law enforcement officers (including those in the Minnesota State Patrol), correctional officers, dispatchers, and firefighters.

It is troubling to read media reports of your recent private meeting with the family of Ricky Cobb II. While we understand the family is grieving his death, there are legitimate concerns regarding your involvement, and now relationship and affiliation, that could affect a fair and impartial investigation and potential legal charging decision in this incident.

This incident involving employees of Minnesota State Patrol (part of your administration) which currently under investigation by the MN Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (also part of your Administration). It is of VITAL importance that everyone, including elected officials, let the investigation and legal process continue without interruption or influence.

We all want the integrity of the investigation – as well the *perception* of the integrity of the investigation and charging decisions – to be fair and to follow the impartial rule of law. While it's understandable to grieve a death, it's improper to involve oneself with the integrity and transparency of our legal process. **This private meeting, called "important" by Cobb's family, with unknown assurances and information, specifically undermines the due process, rule of law, and rights of our law enforcement officers.**

We are concerned that meeting with the family creates a conflict of interest - or minimally, the perception of a conflict – over both the state agencies conducting the investigation, the state agencies employing the officer, and/or a potential legal charging decision.

As an elected leader, you play a key role as a trusted source of information. With that influence comes a paramount responsibility. Justice can only be achieved by a fair, thorough, and impartial investigation and judicial decisions. Everyone deserves that, including our members, Minnesota's rank-and-file police officers. We would be receptive to meeting with your team and you to discuss our concerns.

Sincerely,

Imran Ali, General Counsel
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association