



## CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*Eric J. Gieseke*  
*Chief of Police*

June 21, 2016

Dear community members and members of the media,

Today, the Dakota County Attorney's Office announced the decision of the Dakota County Grand Jury in the officer-involved shooting of Map Kong in Burnsville. The County Attorney's news release – which outlines that decision and the details of the incident – is attached to this letter.

I would first like to take this opportunity, on behalf of myself and the Burnsville Police Department, to once again express our sympathies to the family of Map Kong. Every loss of life is tragic, and it is important to always remain mindful of this fact.

All too often, police officers must face difficult and challenging situations. Situations that put them and the public they have sworn to defend at risk. Situations that can impact many lives. The loss of Map Kong's life in the McDonald's parking lot in Burnsville on March 17, 2016 was one of those situations.

I hope – through the release of our officers' body camera videos and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) investigation report – that you will be able to place yourselves in the position of these officers. I also hope that you will be left with the same conclusion as the Grand Jury – that our officers acted out of necessity.

In the video and throughout the report, you will see that our officers acted methodically, strategically and professionally while handling the scene. They attempted to isolate and contain the situation, and evaluate options before responding. You will see multiple attempts at de-escalation – including dozens of verbal commands for Mr. Kong to drop his weapon, and two Taser deployments.

When Mr. Kong left his vehicle – still holding a large dagger – and began running toward the busy morning rush-hour traffic of Highway 13, our officers had exhausted other options. Fearing for the safety of our residents, they discharged their weapons.

*(continued)*

It is not the outcome that anyone wanted, including our officers. This was the first fatal officer-involved shooting in Burnsville in 35 years, and it has impacted the family of Map Kong, our department and the entire community.

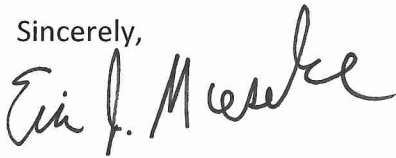
I understand that situations like these leave people angry, afraid, sad and with many questions. By releasing the body camera video and investigation reports – which provide an unprecedented and transparent narrative of the events that took place – I hope that many questions will be answered.

While the outcome was tragic, I support the professionalism shown by our officers, the skilled use of their training under pressure and their commitment to keeping the people in Burnsville safe.

In March, I stated that the Burnsville Police Department would neither shy away from our stance and philosophy on body cameras, nor compromise the reputation of transparency we have worked so hard to build. This incident put us to the test. Thank you to those who have been patient during the investigative process.

In closing, please keep all those who have been impacted by this event in your thoughts tonight – both the family of Map Kong, as well as the officers and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Gieseke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "E".

Eric Gieseke  
Burnsville Police Chief