

Bidal Duran
State Representative
District 2A
Beltrami, Clearwater and
Lake of the Woods Counties



**Minnesota
House of
Representatives**

October 1, 2025

Mary Moriarty
Hennepin County Attorney
Government Center, A-1200
300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55487

via electronic delivery

Dear County Attorney Moriarty,

I am writing to express my deep concern with your recent decision to no longer prosecute felony cases that stem from low-level traffic stops. This policy will have serious consequences for the safety of our communities and for the ability of law enforcement officers to do their jobs effectively.

Lawful traffic stops are one of the most proven tools officers have to prevent crime and protect residents. So far this year, Hennepin County deputies and detectives have conducted 93,223 traffic stops. Those stops resulted in 624 arrests and the confiscation of 175 illegally owned firearms. Nearly half of the 377 illegal guns seized in Hennepin County this year came directly from traffic stops. These are not minor discoveries. They include firearms tied to homicides and shootings, as well as weapons modified to fire automatically. Deputies have also intercepted fentanyl, rescued victims, and apprehended violent offenders, all during stops that began with something as routine as an equipment violation or expired tabs.

Declining to prosecute these cases ignores the evidence uncovered during these stops and emboldens criminals who are already paying attention to the limits being placed on law enforcement. Sheriff Dewanna Witt recently noted that offenders openly acknowledge they know officers are not supposed to chase them or stop them, and this policy only reinforces that perception. And when accountability is stripped away in Hennepin County, the problem does not remain within its borders. Criminals inevitably move outward, spreading into surrounding communities and burdening them as well. By removing prosecutorial follow-up, weakening deterrence, and signaling that serious offenses will go unpunished, this policy sends a dangerous message to offenders across Minnesota.

There is also the troubling issue of how this policy was rolled out. Police chiefs across Hennepin County report they were told just weeks ago that no such directive was being developed. Now they are left scrambling to answer questions from their officers and residents about what laws will and will not be enforced. This lack of transparency undermines trust and makes an already difficult job even harder for the men and women who serve our communities.

Minnesotans deserve better leadership than this. They deserve a prosecutor's office that will follow through when law enforcement uncovers evidence of criminal activity instead of issuing blanket policies that take our most effective tools off the table. This approach is antithetical to the purpose of your office and amounts to a dereliction of duty to the people you are supposed to serve.

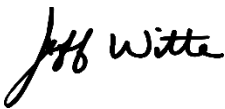
If the concern is racial disparities in policing, then the solution is to address misconduct when it occurs, not to let dangerous individuals slip through the cracks at the expense of public safety.

Communities across our state are depending on you to reconsider this directive and restore prosecutorial follow-up on charges stemming from lawful traffic stops. Public safety relies on collaboration, accountability, and respect for the rule of law. Anything less will create more victims and harm our communities.

Sincerely,



Representative Bidal Duran



Representative Jeff Witte



Representative Elliott Engen



Representative Walter Hudson



Representative Erica Schwartz



Representative Paul Novotny



Representative Matt Bliss



Representative Bobbie Harder



Representative Aaron Repinski



Representative Terry Stier