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ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA****Case:** Kirchner v. Ellison**Civil Action No.:** _____**EXHIBIT C: JD Vance Public Pre-Investigation Adjudication of ICE Officer Who
Shot and Killed Renee Good****Source:** White House Press Conference Transcript**Date:** January 8, 2026**Speaker:** Vice President JD Vance

- 1. Vice President Vance:** Uh, I'll take some questions, but I wanna just one final observation here. Uh, when I was actually walking out here, um, somebody sent me a photo of a CNN headline about what happened in Minneapolis, and this is the headline. I'm just gonna read it. Outrage after ICE officer kills US citizen in Minneapolis.
- 2. Vice President Vance:** Well, that's one way to put it. And that is the way that many people in the corporate media have put this attack over the last 24 hours. And I say attack very, very intentionally because this was an attack on federal law enforcement. This was an attack on law and order. This was an attack on the American people.
- 3. Vice President Vance:** The way that the media. By and large has reported this story has been an absolute disgrace and it puts our law enforcement officers at risk every single day. What that headline leaves out is the fact that that very off ice officer nearly had his life ended dragged by a car. Six months ago, 33 stitches in his leg.
- 4. Vice President Vance:** So you think maybe he's a little bit sensitive about somebody ramming him with an automobile. What that headline leaves out is that that woman was there to interfere with a legitimate law enforcement operation in the United States of America. What that headline leaves out is that that woman. Has as part of a broader left wing network to attack, to dox, to assault, and to make it impossible for our ICE officers to do their job.
- 5. Vice President Vance:** If the media wants to tell the truth, they ought to tell the truth that a group of left wing radicals have been working tirelessly, sometimes using domestic terror techniques to try to make it impossible for the president of the United States to do what the American people elected him to do, which is enforce our immigration laws.
- 6. Vice President Vance:** The president stands with ice. I stand with ice. We stand with all of our law enforcement officers and part of that is recognizing that you, people in the media, not everybody in this room, but many people in this room have been lying about this attack. She was trying to ram this guy with his, with her car.

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- 1 **7. Vice President Vance:** He shot back, he defended himself. He's already been seriously wounded in
2 law enforcement operations before, and everybody who's been repeating the lie that this is some
3 innocent woman who was out for a drive in Minneapolis when a law enforcement officer shot at
4 her. You should be ashamed of yourself.
5
- 6 **8. Vice President Vance:** Every single one of you questions.
7
- 8 **9. Reporter:** Thank you, Mr. Vice President. I wanted to read a quote from Tim Walz earlier today.
9 He said, when things looked bleak, it was Minnesota's first that held the line for the nation on
10 July 3rd, 1863, and I think we may be in that moment now. Can you comment on his rhetoric and
11 Mayor Jacob Frey and whether they want to see unrest in Minneapolis?
12
- 13 **10. Vice President Vance:** Well, it's very tough rhetoric from a guy who just quit because his
14 fraudulent activities have been uncovered. Look, Tim Walz is a joke. His entire administration
15 has been a joke. The idea. That he's some sort of freedom fighter. He is not. He's the guy who has
16 enabled fraud and maybe in fact has participated in fraud.
17
- 18 **11. Vice President Vance:** That's what this new assistant attorney general position is gonna find out.
19 I don't care what Tim Waltz says. I care about getting to the bottom of this fraud for the American
20 people, and I care about enforcing the nation's immigration laws. That's what we're gonna stay
21 focused on.
22
- 23 **12. Reporter:** Our related question here, I mean, Democrats have accused ICE of murder. They've
24 said they're targeting Americans. Uh, they told ICE to get the F out, uh, of Minnesota. This is
25 going to stoke the fire against ICE agents. And you're talking about ICE agents right now, being
26 concerned about them. What, if anything, is the administration going to do to make sure these
27 folks are protected during these protests, but also should DHS sort of revisit their procedures
28 here?
29
- 30 **13. Reporter:** [continued] I mean, nobody wants to see an American killed. Uh, are there changes
31 that need to be made to make sure something like this doesn't happen again?
32
- 33 **14. Vice President Vance:** Look, first of all, of course, nobody wants an American citizen to be
34 killed. This is absolutely a tragedy, but it's a tragedy of the making of the far left. They have
35 radicalized a very small segment of the population, taught them that ice agents are engaging in
36 wide scale violation of people's rights.
37
- 38 **15. Vice President Vance:** What our ICE officers are doing. Is deporting the millions of criminal
39 aliens that were let in during the Biden administration. So number one, we have to say as a matter
40 of leadership, and I would appreciate if the Democrats would join me on this, let's be honest
41 about the fact that we have way too many illegal aliens in this country.
42
- 43 **16. Vice President Vance:** Our ice officers should be supported in doing their job. You're trying to
44 actually marshal the far left lunatic fringe to engage in. Doxing to try to make it impossible for
45 them to enforce the law, and in some cases actually to engage in acts of domestic terrorism
46 against our law enforcement officers.
47
- 48 **17. Vice President Vance:** Uh, when you talk about different plans, different protocols, different
49 policies, I, I, I forget exactly how you asked the question. Here's the simple fact. What we're
50 going to do is make it easier for the American People's Administration to enforce the American
51 people's law, and that means that Democrats have to stop rallying the mob against legitimate law

1 enforcement operations, and that means that we are gonna get tougher. And that's what this
2 A.A.G. position is about. We're gonna get tougher at the people who are defrauding the United
3 States by, in inciting violence against our law enforcement officers. That's one of the things that
4 we're gonna do. We've already started that work at the Department of Justice, but we're gonna
5 keep on doing it.
6

7 **18. Vice President Vance:** And this new A.A.G. position is gonna kick that into high gear.
8

9 **19. Reporter:** Vice President Vance, you just suggested that this woman who was killed, Renee
10 Goode, is part of a, a broader left wing network. Who do you think is behind this broader left
11 wing network?
12

13 **20. Vice President Vance:** Well, it's one of the things we're gonna have to figure out, but here, here's
14 the way that I put it. When somebody throws a brick at an ice agent or somebody tries to run over
15 an ice agent. Who paid for the brick and who told protestors to show up and engage in violent
16 activity against our law enforcement officers. You see, just with this most recent terrible incident
17 in Minneapolis, you see friends of this woman's or other people who are eyewitnesses saying
18 basically that she was there to engage in obstruction of a legitimate law enforcement operation.
19

20 **21. Vice President Vance:** How did she get there? How did she learn about this? There's an entire
21 network, and frankly, some of the media are participating in it that is trying to incite violence
22 against our law enforcement officers. It's ridiculous. It's preposterous, and part of our
23 investigatory work is getting to the bottom of it.
24

25 **22. Vice President Vance:** Who's funding it? Who's supporting it, who's cheerleading it, and of
26 course if there's illegal activity related to that, we're gonna get to the bottom of that and prosecute
27 it where we can.
28

29 **23. Reporter:** Vice president, thank you for taking questions today. Is there a risk with you
30 describing her as a deranged leftist, talking about very specific facts of these events when an
31 investigation is just beginning? Are you preempting a thorough investigation by drawing such
32 conclusions? And have you received any information beyond the videos we've seen publicly
33 about this individual, her specific acts that has informed your point of view?
34

35 **24. Vice President Vance:** Well, first of all, the Department of Justice is going to investigate this.
36 The Department of Homeland Security is already investigating this, but the simple fact is what
37 you see is what you get.
38

39 **25. Vice President Vance:** In this case, you have a woman who is trying to obstruct a legitimate law
40 enforcement operation. Nobody debates that. You have a woman who aimed her car at a law
41 enforcement officer and pressed on the accelerator. Nobody debates that. I can believe that her
42 death is a tragedy while also recognizing that it's a tragedy of her own making and a tragedy of
43 the far left who has marshaled an entire movement.
44

45 **26. Vice President Vance:** A lunatic fringe against our law enforcement officers. Uh, I, I think what,
46 what is clearly happening here, and it's gonna keep on happening unless the Democrats wake up
47 and say, you know what? You don't have to agree with our immigration policies. You don't have
48 to agree with what the president or the vice president believe about immigration enforcement.
49

50 **27. Vice President Vance:** But why don't you take this to the ballot box? Why don't you vote? Why
51 don't you organize instead, what some of them are doing? What some of them are doing is

1 encouraging people to get violent with our law enforcement officials. It's disgraceful and it's gotta
2 stop.
3

4 **28. Reporter:** Just to follow up on that question, and again, thank you for taking questions, Mr. Vice
5 President, there's clearly a lot of emotion in Minnesota across the country over this incident.
6 You're calling Rene Goode, a deranged leftist. There's been heated rhetoric that we've also heard
7 from officials. What responsibility do you and the president have to diffuse some of the tension
8 that we are seeing play out in Minnesota?
9

10 **29. Reporter:** [continued] Bring down the temperature. As this investigation is unfolding, what we
11 have a responsibility to do is to protect the people who are enforcing the law and protect the
12 country writ large. Whether you're a Democrat or Republican, you deserve to have the people's
13 laws enforced in the United States of America.
14

15 **30. Vice President Vance:** Now, again, I I don't want, I, I'm not happy that this woman lost her life.
16 I'm not happy that this woman was there at a protest violating the law. By interfering with a law
17 enforcement action, I think that we can all recognize that the best way to turn down the
18 temperature is to tell people to take their concerns about immigration policy to the ballot box,
19 stop assaulting and stop inciting violence against our law enforcement officers.
20

21 **31. Vice President Vance:** That's the best way to take down the temperature, and we're not. Look, we
22 are not gonna give in to terrorism on this, and that's exactly what's happening. People trying to
23 antagonize to commit acts of violence. They throw bricks at 'em. Sometimes they shoot at 'em,
24 sometimes they dox them. Sometimes they go to their place of residence and harass their families.
25

26 **32. Vice President Vance:** This is classic terrorism and we cannot say that when, when, when a far
27 left fringe is inciting violence against our brave law enforcement officials that we're no longer
28 gonna enforce the law. That's rewarding the very people who are engaged in this garbage. The
29 actual reward that they just got is a new assistant attorney general who is gonna prosecute and
30 investigate this stuff even more.
31

32 **33. Vice President Vance:** And even more aggressively than before.
33

34 **34. Reporter:** Thanks for taking my question. Um, so the head of Minnesota's Investigations agency
35 says that the US Attorney's Office has essentially cut off the State Investigations agency's access
36 to the investigation. What is the precedent for that and why shouldn't the Minnesota officials on
37 the ground have access and evidence to work on this investigation?
38

39 **35. Vice President Vance:** First of all, I wish the state officials in Minnesota would investigate why
40 you have so many people who are using their vehicles and other means to actually interfere with a
41 legitimate law enforcement operation. The precedent here is very simple. You have a federal law
42 enforcement official engaging in federal law enforcement action.
43

44 **36. Vice President Vance:** That's a federal issue. That guy is protected by absolute immunity. He
45 was doing his job. The idea that Tim Walz and a bunch of radicals in Minneapolis are gonna go
46 after and make this guy's life miserable because he was doing the job that he was asked to do. Is
47 preposterous. The unprecedented thing is the idea that a local official can actually prosecute a
48 federal official with absolute immunity.
49

50 **37. Vice President Vance:** I've never seen anything like that. It would get tossed out by a judge. So
51 what I'd like Minnesota to focus on is the real issue that they're encouraging people. Minneapolis

officials are encouraging people to commit violence against ice officials. It's ridiculous. It's gotta stop.

38. Reporter: Sir, Mr. Vice President. Thank you. Uh, you said earlier that there's a left wing network to attack, to dox, to assault and make it impossible for ICE officers to do their job. Uh, you told, uh, my colleague just now that there's an investigation going on into that, into that network.

39. Vice President Vance: Yep.

40. Reporter: So if everything that you say is true, how does being part of that network justify being shot?

41. Vice President Vance: Well, being part of the network doesn't justify being shot, but ramming an ICE officer with your car, that's what justifies being shot. It's not a good thing, by the way, but when you force somebody to engage in self-defense. It's almost a preposterous question. I'm not saying that funding, some of this stuff justifies capital punishment.

42. Vice President Vance: Nobody would suggest that the reason this woman is dead is because she tried to ram somebody with her car and that guy acted in self-defense. That is why she lost her life, and that is the tragedy. Now, there may be other violations of the law and other penalties that as that, that, that, that, that, that are associated with those violations of the law, for example.

43. Vice President Vance: If you are funding violence against our law enforcement officers, I, I'm, I'm not a prosecutor, my guess is that's not the sort of thing that earns capital punishment, but it should sure as hell earn you a few years in prison if you're funding the effort to try to assault our, our law enforcement officers.

44. Vice President Vance: What, what is, I'm sorry guys. What's going on here? You guys are meant to report the truth. How have you let yourself become agents of propaganda of a radical fringe that's making it harder for us to enforce our laws? You just asked me a question that presumed that the reason why this woman died is because she was engaged in legitimate protest.

45. Vice President Vance: She tried to run somebody over with her car and the guy defended himself when that happened. Next question.

46. Reporter: The investigation is—

47. Vice President Vance: [interrupts] I said, next question.

48. Reporter: Mr. Vice President. I mean, you presumably watched the video yourself. There's not the slightest doubt in your mind having viewed it that, uh, this, the victim, you still believe that she deliberately tried to ram him despite, despite seeing this video?

49. Vice President Vance: Look, I don't know what is in a person's heart or in a person's head, and obviously we're not gonna get the, the chance to ask this woman what was going on. What I am certain of is that she violated the law. What I'm certain of is that that officer had every reason to think that he was under very serious threat for injury or, or in fact his life.

50. Vice President Vance: Uh, what I'm certain of is that she accelerated in a way where she ran into the guy. I don't know what was in her heart and what was in her head. But I know that she

1 violated the law, and I know that officer was acting in self-defense that that's a raise, an
2 interesting point though. Look, if people wanna say that we should have a, a legitimate debate
3 about, you know, what, what was she really doing?
4

5 **51. Vice President Vance:** Right? Was she panicking when she drove into this officer, or was she
6 actually trying to ram him? That's a, that's a reasonable conversation. What's not reasonable is for
7 so many of you to plaster all over the media that this was an innocent woman and that the ice
8 agent committed murder, which is what many of you have said explicitly, and some of you have
9 said implicitly.
10

11 **52. Vice President Vance:** That's what I have an objection to. The idea that this was not justified
12 that. Is absurd. And I think everybody knows it in their heart.
13

14 **53. Reporter:** Yeah. In the green jacket, taking down the temperature, it seems like political violence
15 is ratcheting up and riots could be around the corner. What steps does the administration have
16 planned to try to unite America?
17

18 **54. Reporter:** [continued] Average people on both political sides are so tired of fighting with, with
19 each other, and I think all the journalists in this room could agree with me, uh, that we don't
20 wanna be part of the problem. Um, do you have any words to unite America?
21

22 **55. Vice President Vance:** You know, I, I know you don't wanna be part of the problem, and I think
23 that's true of a lot of you. I'm not sure it's true for everybody because the reporting over this has
24 been one of the biggest scandals I've ever seen in media. I've never seen a case so misrepresented
25 and misreported when you have a guy who was defending himself and is now being treated as
26 some sort of federal assassin. By so many of the people in this room.
27

28 **56. Vice President Vance:** What, what I, first of all lemme say about, about crime, you mentioned
29 violence. One of the things we're proudest about is that you saw violent crime over the last year
30 drop by 20%. Why is that dropped by 20%? Is it because we're attacking our law enforcement
31 officers or is it because we in the administration, are empowering our law enforcement officers to
32 enforce the law. I think that's one of the ways you take down the temperature is you make people
33 feel more secure and safe in their person and property. That's why we care so much about
34 protecting our law enforcement because it, it, it accrues to the benefit of the entire national
35 community.
36

37 **57. Vice President Vance:** I think that we can absolutely talk about the ways in which, you know,
38 we, we, we can, we can try to, we can lower the temperature. By discussing differences in a
39 reasonable and rational way. Again, I'm happy to talk with any congressional Democrat or any of
40 you about our immigration policy about why I think it's necessary, about why I think it's in the
41 best interest of the country, about why the president of the United States was elected to actually
42 enforce the border for the first time in at least four years.
43

44 **58. Vice President Vance:** So here's the problem. That's not the debate so many people are having.
45 They are actively covering for people who are committing acts of violence against federal law
46 enforcement, it is preposterous. The way to take down the temperature is to stop it. Have your
47 debates about policy attack me. Attack the president of the United States don't attack our law
48 enforcement officers.
49

50 **59. Vice President Vance:** They are trying to do the job. The American people demanded that they
51 do. They, that they are not policy actors. They are enforcing the law. They should be treated with

1 a modicum of dignity and respect. And the fact that they're not is why incidents like yesterday
 2 happened. The one final point I'll make about this is, look there, there's a part of me that feels
 3 very, very sad for this woman. Not just because she lost her life, but because I think she's a victim
 4 of left-wing ideology. What young mother shows up and decides they're gonna throw their car in
 5 front of ice officers who are enforcing legitimate law. You've gotta be a little brainwashed to get
 6 to that point to where you're willing not not just to protest, that's fine.

7
 8 **60. Vice President Vance:** Not peacefully protest, but throw your vehicle. In front of legitimate law
 9 enforcement officers and drive your car into them. To get to that point, you have to be, I think,
 10 radicalized in a very, very sad way. I certainly wish that she hadn't got there. I know there's an
 11 ICE officer right now who very much wishes he was not put in the position where he had to fire a
 12 gun to to defend his own life.

13
 14 **61. Reporter:** Yeah. Thank you Mr. Vice President, what's your message? Following up on that,
 15 what's your message to the leaders in Minnesota, the governor of Minnesota, the mayor of
 16 Minneapolis, to calm down the situation on the ground, on the streets? What's your message also
 17 to those protestors who saw that video in a completely different way than you saw that video?
 18

19 **62. Vice President Vance:** Well, first of all, I, I think if you watch every angle of that video, um,
 20 there, there is one angle where if you squint, you can maybe tell yourself that it's not clear what
 21 happened, but when you look at all angles of that video, it is very clear that her vehicle went right
 22 for the guy. She actually collided with him.

23
 24 **63. Vice President Vance:** And then that's of course when he fired his shots. That's obvious. Okay.
 25 So what I'd say to the protestors is, by all means protest peacefully, but make this about ideas.
 26 Make this about disagreement with our policy. Don't use your protest as a justification or an
 27 encouragement for people to go and, and, and incite violence and participate in violence against
 28 our law enforcement officials, to the people on the ground in Minneapolis, meaning that the local
 29 officials in Minneapolis from Tim Walz on down, I, I'd say, look, why can't you just disagree
 30 with a given piece of immigration policy without turning law enforcement into the enemy?
 31

32 **64. Vice President Vance:** And what I mean, think about, for example, a criminal law where a police
 33 officer goes and arrests somebody because they violated a criminal law. If you're mad about that,
 34 go and protest the politician who passed that law don't attack the police officer who's just doing
 35 their job. We had a wide open border under Joe Biden.
 36

37 **65. Vice President Vance:** I happen to think it's a good thing that President of the United States has
 38 closed it down. If you think that's a bad idea, criticize this administration for a policy decision.
 39 Don't attack our people for enforcing the law because I guarantee you go to ice. There are black
 40 people and white people. There are Democrats and Republicans.
 41

42 **66. Vice President Vance:** They are patriotic Americans who are trying to enforce the law. Attack
 43 me. Lay off of our ice agents.
 44

45 **67. Reporter:** Vice president. Yeah. In the blue all the way. Yeah. Thank you. Mr. Vice President,
 46 um, you called on Tim Walz to resign. Can you lay out the case as to why he should step down?
 47

48 **68. Vice President Vance:** Well, I look, I think Tim Walz should resign because it's very clear either
 49 that he knew about the fraud of Minneapolis, he knew about the welfare fraud, or at the very
 50 least, he looked the other way. I mean, this is not. This is not like Lex Luthor, right? This is not
 51 movie villain fraud. This is the lowest IQ possible fraud. This is, we're gonna take kids, or sorry,

1 we're gonna take the absence of kids and set up a daycare center. Where there are no children, and
2 we're gonna call our early childhood Education center, the Quality Leering Center.
3

4 **69. Vice President Vance:** By the way, if you can't spell learning, maybe you shouldn't be in early
5 childhood education, but people got rich off of this. We know that there were schools who either
6 had no enrollment. Or at least they overstated their enrollment. Tim Waltz either was
7 unbelievably incompetent or he was in on the fraud.
8

9 **70. Vice President Vance:** That's one of the things we're gonna get to the bottom of.
10

11 **71. Reporter:** Sir. Thank you. Mr. Vice President. Can you explain the difference between this
12 Associate Attorney general and a special counsel, and do you envision this being a permanent
13 position or having more of a limited scope?
14

15 **72. Vice President Vance:** Well, it's gonna be permanent until we get to the bottom of what's going
16 on, so I think it's gonna last for at least the remainder of the administration. What's different about
17 it from a special counsel is if you remember, uh, the Jack Smith case where the special counsel
18 was found unconstitutional. One of the big issues there is that that person was not an appointed
19 person, uh, completely aside from all the other issues, that the person was a lunatic and that the
20 case had no merit.
21

22 **73. Vice President Vance:** There was a fundamental constitutional issue, which is that he had not
23 been appointed by the president and he had not been confirmed by the United States Senate, an
24 assistant, or, excuse me, an Assistant Attorney General. What that's gonna allow us to do is
25 appoint this person, have them confirmed by the Senate.
26

27 **74. Vice President Vance:** That's one difference. The more substantive difference is that this person
28 is gonna be part of a very broad, interagency White House that's being led from the President of
29 the United States on down, and that's gonna give 'em the resources, the access to material and
30 information to make this person more effective.
31

32 **75. Vice President Vance:** I think a lot of people have asked, how are you really gonna get to the
33 heart of the fraud? We've been asking ourself that question for the past couple of months, and we
34 think this is the critical piece at the Department of Justice to to, to really ramp this fraud
35 investigation into high gear.
36

37 **76. Reporter:** In the red tie. Yeah. Vice President Vance, I want to ask, what's your message to far
38 left as the agitators who feel emboldened to obstruct ice activity in Minnesota and around the
39 country?
40

41 **77. Vice President Vance:** Well, I think they shouldn't feel emboldened because now they have an
42 assistant attorney general who is gonna prosecute and investigate their fraud and their violence
43 more aggressively than it has ever been investigated in the United States of America.
44

45 **78. Vice President Vance:** We are doing so much to try to find the financing networks and the
46 domestic terrorism networks that legitimate this violence, that fund this violence, and that, of
47 course, engage in the violence. These people should not feel emboldened because they have for
48 the first time, maybe in American history. An administration that is not gonna tolerate political
49 violence of any kind from anywhere.
50

1 **79. Reporter:** We're not clear today that the entire weight of the federal government is behind these
2 ICE agents, and this ICE agent in particular, there is still a federal investigation happening on the
3 ground. Does that mean that they are not looking into this ICE agent at all? They are just focused
4 on the woman who was in the car?

5
6 **80. Reporter:** [continued] What, what is the investigation if the federal government has already
7 determined that its weight is behind this ice investigation?

8
9 **81. Vice President Vance:** So, so what do you mean? When you say investigation, do you mean
10 investigation of the shooting yesterday or of the fraud that's happening in Minneapolis?

11
12 **82. Reporter:** Yesterday.

13
14 **83. Vice President Vance:** Okay. Look, DHS, as I understand it, has an investigation already
15 ongoing. I know that other organs of our government are looking at this, so yes, there's certainly
16 an investigation that's happening right now. Uh, but, but as part of the broader fraud investigation,
17 a lot of what we're doing with the Department of Justice has already started. We've got over 1500
18 subpoenas. We've got people this morning actually we're going door to door to actually knock on
19 some of these fraudulent care centers, these fraudulent social services organizations to get to the
20 bottom of what's going on there.

21
22 **84. Vice President Vance:** So the investigation, in some ways has already been ramping up into the
23 anti-fraud element for at least a few weeks. What we're trying to do is supercharge it and make
24 sure there's a designated person within the Department of Justice who completely controls that
25 particular focus.

26
27 **85. Reporter:** Just to follow up on that, Mr. Vice President, uh, on the agent, is he still on duty or has
28 he been placed on leave, uh, on administrative leave, and what really was the target of the
29 operation on Wednesday? ICE operation on Wednesday?

30
31 **86. Vice President Vance:** Well, first of all, it was a legitimate law enforcement operation. We were
32 going door to door to try to find criminal illegal aliens and deport them from the United States of
33 America.

34
35 **87. Vice President Vance:** Because if you come to our country illegally in violation of our
36 immigration laws, then we have the mandate, and in fact, we have the legal duty to enforce those
37 immigration laws. Whether he's been placed on administrative leave, I don't know the answer to
38 that question. I'd refer to the Department of Homeland Security and they can follow up.

39
40 **88. Vice President Vance:** I will say, look, I, I would appreciate everybody saying a prayer for that,
41 that agent. Look, in the past six months. He has been hit twice by a motor vehicle one time, the
42 first time it led to over 30 stitches and very serious injuries to his legs. This is a guy who's
43 actually done a very, very important job for the United States of America.

44
45 **89. Vice President Vance:** He's been assaulted, he's been attacked, he's been injured. Because of it.
46 He deserves a debt of gratitude. And I think the media prejudging and talking about this guy as if
47 he's a murderer is one of the most disgraceful things I've ever seen from the American media.

48
49 **90. Reporter:** Vice President. What is your specific role in the future of Venezuela? And I'm
50 wondering, could you confirm reports that the Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard,

1 was kept out of the planning for the operations because of her past concerns about military
2 involvement in Venezuela?
3

4 **91. Vice President Vance:** So I've heard a couple of things, one that I was kept outta the planning for
5 the Venezuela operation. That's false. And another, that Tulsi was kept out of the planning for
6 Venezuela operations. That's completely false. Look, we're all part of the same team and one of
7 the things that is really amazing about that operation is that, uh, we kept it very tight to the senior
8 cabinet level officials and related officials in our government.
9

10 **92. Vice President Vance:** And we kept this operation secret for a very long time. I'm very proud of
11 that. I think it suggests, I think it suggests that the team works very well together. What, looking
12 ahead, what does my role look? My role is gonna be whatever the president asks me to do.
13

14 **93. Reporter:** Has he asked something?
15

16 **94. Vice President Vance:** Well, every single, or I should say, every other day, I'm chairing the
17 meeting that we do on this among White House principals to talk about next steps to try to ensure
18 that Venezuela is stable and as the President has directed us to do, to ensure that the new
19 Venezuelan government actually listens to the United States and does what the United States
20 needs it to do, uh, under our country's best interest. So I'm gonna be as involved as the president
21 wants me to be. So far that's been very involved and I'll keep on doing that so long as the
22 president asked me to do it.
23

24 **95. Vice President Vance:** Even, even the powers, we'll go purple and then we'll go pink or whatever
25 that is in front.
26

27 **96. Reporter:** Royal purple and beige. Alright. Okay. Are there any indications, you talked about the
28 network, are there any indications that the, uh, the lady who was shot, I know there are different
29 reports. From there, her, her wife said they were new to the area. Um, are there any indications
30 she may have been a paid agitator and maybe that there are others that were brought to the area,
31 um, concerning everything that's going on in Minneapolis?
32

33 **97. Vice President Vance:** I wouldn't say that she was paid. I don't have the evidence to say that one
34 way or the other. What I do know is that she was violating the law, and if you just look at the
35 eyewitness accounts, they were saying she was there to prevent the enforcement of the law. She
36 was trying to obstruct a legitimate law enforcement operation.
37

38 **98. Vice President Vance:** That much is obviously clear. The rest of it, of course, is part of the
39 reason why we investigate this stuff.
40

41 **99. Reporter:** Yeah. Mr. Vice President, even beyond the war powers resolution today, Congress has
42 bucked President Trump on issues like tariffs. Are you concerned that President Trump is losing
43 his grip on Republicans and the Congress and what are you gonna do about it?
44

45 **100. Vice President Vance:** No, I'm not concerned at all. First of all, you know, we, we talked to
46 some of the Senators who are gonna vote the wrong way, in my view on this resolution today,
47 much of their argument was based more on a legal technicality than any disagreement in policy.
48 If you look at the people who actually voted, every single one of them have supported the
49 administration's plan.
50

1 **101. Vice President Vance:** Second of all, as the president, I believe himself has already said, every
2 President, Democrat, or Republican believes the war powers act is fundamentally a fake and
3 unconstitutional law. It's not gonna change anything. About how we conduct foreign policy over
4 the next couple of weeks, the next couple of months. Uh, and that that'll continue to be how we
5 approach things.
6

7 **102. Reporter:** Go ahead. So much vice president. So we are seeing regarding Iran, we're seeing the
8 protests in Iran these days. The cities are, are begging for help from the US and Israel naming
9 streets in the city after President Trump. It seems there is an opportunity here that may not come
10 again. Will the United States stand by the citizens of Iran and if Israel decides to strike again the
11 nuclear sites in Iran, is the US expected to take part?
12

13 **103. Vice President Vance:** Well, look, we, we certainly stand by anybody who's engaged in
14 peaceful protests, anybody who's trying to exert their rights for free association and to have their
15 voices heard. Obviously, the Iranian regime has a lot of problems, and as the president of the
16 United States has said, the smartest thing for them to have done it was true two months ago. It's
17 true today is for them to actually have a real negotiation with the United States about what we
18 need to see when it comes to their nuclear program.
19

20 **104. Vice President Vance:** I'll let the president speak to what we're gonna do in the future, but we
21 certainly stand with anybody across the world, including the Iranian people who are advocating
22 for their rights.
23

24 **105. Vice President Vance:** I'll take just a couple more questions.
25

26 **106. Reporter:** Thank you very much Mr. Vice President, uh, concerning Venezuela. How would
27 you assure the Caribbean region that they will remain a zone of peace? Because some member
28 states in the region are concerned?
29

30 **107. Vice President Vance:** Well, look, the president had a, a very productive phone call with the
31 President of Columbia yesterday, and we continue to talk at all levels of government with a
32 number of our friends in the Caribbean region. I actually think this is really good for peace in the
33 Caribbean because when you take away a major source of illegal cartel revenue, which is the
34 cocaine trade, the fentanyl trade, other sources of illicit revenue.
35

36 **108. Vice President Vance:** If you actually remove the power of one of the main destabilizing forces
37 in Latin America and in the Caribbean, I really do think, look, we, we say it all the time. This is
38 the president of peace. One of the ways that you establish peace in your own hemisphere is to
39 make it clear that the United States is gonna be respected, that the United States is willing to take
40 power away from criminal cartel organizations and give it to legitimate governments. That's how
41 we see the future of the Western Hemisphere, and we think it's gonna be much more peaceful
42 than it was certainly under Joe Biden.
43

44 **109. Vice President Vance:** I'll take one more question.
45

46 **110. Reporter:** Go ahead. Thank you. On Greenland, do you have a message for European leaders?
47 Many in Europe reject the idea that the island could be for sale.
48

49 **111. Vice President Vance:** Well, first of all, Secretary Rubio, I believe, is meeting, uh, with the
50 leaders of Denmark and Greenland next week. I wanna say it is, but maybe it's the week after
51 that. Uh, we'll, we'll, we'll continue to deliver some of these messages in private, some of them in

public. But I, I guess my advice to European leaders and anybody else would be to take the president of the United States seriously.

112. Vice President Vance: What has he said about Greenland? Set, set to the side, the crazy overreactions that I've seen from the press and from certain people in Europe? What has the president said, number one? Greenland is really important, not just to America's missile defense, but to the world's missile defense. Number two, we know that there are hostile adversaries that have shown a lot of interest in that particular territory, that particular slice of the world.

113. Vice President Vance: So what we're asking our European friends to do is to take the security of that landmass more seriously, because if they're not, the United States is gonna have to do something about it. What that is, I'll leave that to the president, uh, as we continue to engage in diplomacy with our European friends and everybody on this particular topic.

114. Vice President Vance: And again, thank you all for, for listening. Thanks for taking questions. And I just ask you look. Okay, this is politics and often Republicans and you know, get, get in, get in arguments with the press about things. I understand that. I think it's really irresponsible for you guys to go out there and imply or tell the American people that a guy who defended himself from being rammed by an automobile is guilty of murder.

115. Vice President Vance: Be a little bit more careful. We're gonna talk about toning down the temperature, which I know the president wants to do and I certainly wanna do. One of the ways we tone down the temperature is to have a media that tells the truth. I encourage you all to do that. God bless you.

116. Reporter: President. Happy New Year guys.

[End of Transcript]

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UV9oxJUMDzk>

Date: January 8, 2026

Evidentiary Significance

This transcript documents Vice President JD Vance's public press conference held one day after the shooting death of Rene Good by an ICE officer in Minneapolis. The statement is significant for several reasons:

- 1. Pre-Investigation Adjudication:** Vance publicly declared the ICE officer acted in "self-defense" and characterized the shooting as "justified" (§§24-25, 41, 52) before any investigation was completed, while simultaneously acknowledging investigations were ongoing (§§24, 83).
- 2. Characterization of Victim:** Vance repeatedly characterized the deceased as a "deranged leftist" (§§23, 28), part of a "broader left wing network" (§§4, 19-22), and victim of "left-wing ideology" (§§59) based solely on her presence at the scene.

- 1 **3. Absolute Immunity Claim:** Vance asserted the ICE officer "is protected by absolute immunity"
2 (§36), which is a legal conclusion that would typically be determined by courts, not the executive
3 branch.
4
- 5 **4. Domestic Terror Framing:** Vance characterized peaceful protest activity as "classic terrorism"
6 (§32) and "domestic terror techniques" (§5), potentially criminalizing First Amendment protected
7 activity.
8
- 9 **5. Media Intimidation:** Vance accused reporters of being "agents of propaganda" (§44) and
10 suggested they "should be ashamed" (§7) for reporting on the incident, constituting potential
11 chilling of press freedom.
12