



November 22, 2025

Chief Baird
Thornton Police Department
9551 Civic Center Drive
Thornton, CO 80229

RE: Traffic Accident on April 23, 2025

Dear Chief Baird:

This letter is to inform you of the legal conclusion following the 17th Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) investigation into the April 23, 2025 automobile accident involving the death of Noah Heu in which Thornton Police Department Officer Kyle Hendricks responded. The 17th Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) conducted the investigation, led by Detectives Jason Shearer and Tara Scully from the Adams County Sheriff's Office. The remaining investigators on the CIRT who worked on this investigation are associated with law enforcement agencies independent of the Thornton Police Department. The investigation included a comprehensive review of the facts and circumstances that led to the incident, along with a crash reconstruction analysis. The Office of the District Attorney concludes that the investigation was thorough and complete. This letter summarizes my pertinent legal conclusions from the investigation.

The District Attorney's Office review is limited to determining whether any criminal charges should be filed against any of the involved officers for a violation of Colorado law. The standard of proof for filing a criminal case is whether there is sufficient evidence to prove all the elements of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt. This independent investigation and review is not intended to take the place of an internal affairs investigation by your agency. As such, the District Attorney's Office review does not evaluate compliance with any departmental policies, standards, or procedures.

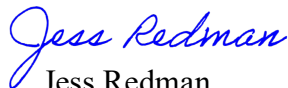
At 4:45 p.m. on April 23, 2025, Thornton Police Officer Kyle Hendricks was conducting speed enforcement in an unmarked police vehicle. While Officer Hendricks was parked at the Grandview Ponds, located at 4401 E. 104th Avenue, he observed a brown Infinity sedan speeding eastbound at a rate of 73 mph, recklessly overtaking traffic traveling east. The speed limit on 104th Avenue is 50 mph, and Officer Hendricks initiated an attempt to pursue the vehicle by activating his overhead lights and siren. The speeding vehicle continued to accelerate eastbound. Officer Hendricks shut off his lights and sirens due to the volume of traffic. Approximately 10 seconds later, the Infinity ran the red light at the intersection of 104th Avenue and McKay Road, crashing into multiple vehicles and causing extreme damage. The driver of the Infinity was pronounced deceased. He was later identified as Noah Heu. Several other civilians were taken to the hospital with varying degrees of injury.

The investigation of this incident supports a conclusion that Officer Hendricks's conduct was not the cause of this incident. While Officer Hendricks initiated an attempt to stop the vehicle, he did not make any physical contact with it, nor did he engage in a lengthy pursuit or any maneuver that contributed to the accident. Rather, he simply attempted to initiate a traffic stop and then discontinued it. In fact, it appears that Officer Hendricks shut down his pursuit about ten seconds before the crash and was nearly a mile west of the collision when it occurred. The crash data revealed that at the time of the crash, the Infinity was traveling at a rate of 122 mph with no evidence of braking prior to impact.

In summary, the evidence of the investigation supports the conclusion that Mr. Heu's driving was the sole factor in the collision that resulted in his death. Therefore, based on the evidence presented and the applicable Colorado law, there is no basis to file any criminal charge against Officer Hendricks.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jess Redman

Assistant District Attorney