



The Office of  
**Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison**  
helping people afford their lives and live with dignity and respect • [www.ag.state.mn.us](http://www.ag.state.mn.us)

July 28, 2020

The Honorable Peter A. Cahill  
Judge of District Court  
Hennepin County Courthouse  
1251 Court Tower  
300 Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55487

**Re: *State of Minnesota v. Derek Chauvin* (Court File No. 27-CR-20-12646)  
*State of Minnesota v. Thomas Kiernan Lane* (Court File No. 27-CR-20-12951)  
*State of Minnesota v. J Alexander Kueng* (Court File No. 27-CR-20-12953)  
*State of Minnesota v. Tou Thao* (Court File No. 27-CR-20-12949)**

Dear Judge Cahill:

I write to supplement my letter from yesterday because we want the court to be aware of the State's concerns about live audio and video coverage.

The State fully supports a public trial. The public has a right to know that the trial is being conducted openly and fairly. The State believes it is critical that the public is able to witness and observe the proceedings as they go forward in this matter of significant local, national, and international interest. However, at this time the State is concerned that live audio and visual coverage in the courtroom may create more problems than they will solve.

Live audio and visual coverage could alter the way lawyers present evidence. It could subject the participants in the trial to heightened media scrutiny, distracting from the trial. Live audio and visual coverage may also be intimidating to some witnesses or impair their ability and willingness to come forward, making a fair trial more difficult. Testifying in public is challenging enough; live audio and visual testimony could potentially deprive the State of the testimony of certain witnesses.

The Honorable Peter A. Cahill  
Judge of District Court  
July 28, 2020  
Page 2

Perhaps this issue may be revisited as we get closer to trial.

Sincerely,

**/s/ Matthew Frank**

MATTHEW FRANK  
Manager, Trials and Appeals Division  
Assistant Attorney General  
(651) 757-1448 (Voice)  
(651) 297-4348 (Fax)  
matthew.frank@ag.state.mn.us