

In their words: An examination of statements Trump officials made about what led to Pretti's death

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump administration officials swiftly sought to portray 37-year-old Alex Pretti, an intensive care nurse, as an armed disruptor intent on doing harm to federal agents when he brought his own gun to a Minneapolis street where officers clashed with protesters over President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown. Video shot by bystanders and reviewed by The Associated Press appears to contradict some of those statements.

In their own words, this is what the Trump administration has said about Pretti and the circumstances around his death, and what is shown on videos of the shooting:

BOVINO: PRETTI APPROACHED WITH HIS GUN

Greg Bovino, the Border Patrol commander leading Trump’s crackdown, told reporters Saturday that federal officers fired defensive shots after an individual “approached” with a 9-milimeter semiautomatic handgun.

Also Saturday, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said several times that Pretti “came with a weapon and dozens of rounds of ammunition and attacked” officers, who took action to “defend their lives.”

WHAT WE KNOW: While questions remained about the confrontation, use-of-force experts told The Associated Press that bystander video undermined federal authorities’ claim that Pretti approached with a firearm and that the officer opened fire defensively.

Pretti can be seen with only a phone in his hand. No footage has been made public that appears to show him brandishing a weapon in the moments before or during the confrontation.

Pretti is seen held down by officers for several seconds when someone is heard saying, “gun, gun.” An officer appears to pull a handgun from Pretti’s waist area and begins moving away.

Then the first shot is fired by a Border Patrol officer. There’s a slight pause, and then the same officer fires several more times into Pretti’s back. Multiple officers back off. Within seconds, Pretti is motionless on the street.

Pretti was licensed to carry a concealed weapon.

BOVINO: PRETTI ‘VIOLENTLY RESISTED’ WHEN AGENTS ATTEMPTED TO DISARM HIM

Also Saturday, Bovino said that Pretti “violently resisted” when agents tried to disarm him.

Noem said Sunday on Fox News Channel that officers tried to get Pretti to disengage, but Pretti “became aggressive and resisted them throughout that process.”

WHAT WE KNOW: The videos show Pretti stepping in after an immigration officer shoves a woman. Pretti appears to be holding his phone, but there’s no sign he’s



Adam Gray/AP photo

People gather near the scene where Alex Pretti was fatally shot by a U.S. Border Patrol officer yesterday, in Minneapolis, Sunday, Jan. 25.



Angelina Katsanis/AP photo

U.S. Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino walks with federal agents outside a convenience store on Wednesday, Jan. 21, in Minneapolis.

holding a weapon.

Pretti moves between the two and reaches his hands out toward the officer. The officer deploys pepper spray. Pretti is seen turning his face away and raising an empty hand. The officer grabs Pretti’s hand to bring it behind his back and deploys the pepper spray again, pushing him away.

Pretti is next to the other protester when the officer grabs hold of Pretti and they struggle. The officer is then joined by several others and they force Pretti to the ground. An officer holding a canister strikes him several times.

BOVINO: PRETTI APPEARED TO WANT TO ‘MASSACRE LAW ENFORCEMENT’ BY BRINGING A GUN

The shooting Saturday occurred when officers were on a commercial street pursuing a man in the country illegally and wanted for domestic assault, Bovino said.

He said that Pretti was there “to do maximum damage and massacre law enforcement.” In a Department of Homeland Security statement, spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin used the same words.

Noem emphasized Saturday that Pretti “wasn’t there to peacefully protest. He was there to perpetuate violence.” She said Sunday that Pretti “impeded a law enforcement operation, which is against federal law.”

WHAT WE KNOW: Pretti was one of many protesters on the street Saturday morning. In a seven-minute video obtained by The Associated Press that shows the moments leading up to Pretti’s killing, he and others are holding up phones, apparently recording officer activity. Protesters are yelling out at the officers. Pretti is not visible the whole time, but he at one point can be

seen talking to an officer, who pushes him back to the sidewalk. It’s not clear what Pretti is saying.

TRUMP: PRETTI'S DEATH SPURRED BY ‘DEMOCRAT ENSUED CHAOS’

On Sunday, the Republican president in two lengthy social media posts said that Democrats had encouraged people to obstruct law enforcement operations, and called on officials in Minnesota to work with immigration officers and “turn over” people who were in the U.S. illegally.

“Tragically, two American Citizens have lost their lives as a result of this Democrat ensued chaos,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social media network.

Trump also said in a post Saturday that there had been a coordinated “cover up” to distract from billions being stolen from the state in a series of fraud cases involving government programs in which most of the defendants have roots in the east African country of Somalia. Trump accused Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey of “inciting Insurrection.”

Trump officials say Walz and Frey both repeatedly use inflammatory language, including Walz last year referring to federal immigration officers as “Trump’s modern-day Gestapo.”

WHAT WE KNOW: Minnesota, Minneapolis and St. Paul are all subjects of a September lawsuit by the Trump administration over their so-called sanctuary policies that the agency says interfere with the federal government’s authority to enforce immigration policies. Minneapolis and St. Paul restrict the extent to which their law officers and other employees can cooperate with immigration enforcement, the



Angelina Katsanis/AP photo

U.S. Border Patrol Cmdr. Gregory Bovino stands during a news conference Tuesday, Jan. 20, in Minneapolis.



Julia Demaree Nikhinson/AP photo

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem speaks during a news conference at Federal Emergency Management Agency headquarters, Saturday, Jan. 24, in Washington.

lawsuit noted.

Walz last year rejected the assertion that Minnesota is a sanctuary state, with no statewide law protecting immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally from deportation. He has sharply criticized the


administration’s operation in Minnesota as a “campaign of organized brutality,” which he repeated Saturday. Walz also has encouraged people to protest “loudly, urgent, but also peacefully,” he said in remarks after Renee Good’s

killing by an immigration officer.

After Good’s killing, Frey used profanity in telling ICE to get out of Minneapolis.

“We do not want you here,” he said.

LEGAL



LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF SIMPSONVILLE
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-001

SUMMARY OF
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SIMPSONVILLE ADOPTING
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CITY PARKS

This summary of ordinance is prepared by Chelsey S. Brammell, city attorney of the City of Simpsonville, Kentucky. The full text of this ordinance may be reviewed at the office of the City Clerk, 108 Old Veechdale Road, Simpsonville, KY 40067.

Be it now ordained by the City Commission of the City of Simpsonville, Kentucky that here are hereby enacted general rules and regulations for the use of Simpsonville parks, recreation and recreational facilities. All use of such recreational facilities is also subject to the general laws and regulations of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Shelby County, and the City of Simpsonville. Any use of City facilities or property designated as a special event requires an application and approval from the City. City of Simpsonville sponsored activities have precedence over all other activities. Failure to abide by these rules and regulations may result in violators being prohibited from future use of park property, facilities, or services and/or in lawful actions.

9. Penalty

Any person or persons violating any provisions of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a Class B Misdemeanor and shall upon conviction be subject to a fine of not less than \$20.00 nor more than \$250.00 or imprisonment of not more than 30 days or both for each offense. Violators may also be issued a Citation for violation of City Ordinance and fined accordingly as a civil offense.

In addition, the violator may be ordered to pay restitution to the City for any damage caused, with costs and reasonable attorney’s fees.

Any person violating any provision of this chapter may be banned temporarily or permanently from use of the parks or any portion thereof. Debarment from use of the facilities may be made by any city officer authorized to issue citations. Any order of disqualification from use of park facilities may be appealed to the Code Enforcement Board, which shall hold a hearing on the appeal.

ADOPTED THIS THE 20TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

RONNIE SOWDER
MAYOR, CITY OF SIMPSONVILLE

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