

The Minnesota Star Tribune

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

H: 28° L: 6° | WINDY, 1-2" OF SNOW

New gunfire, new Trump threat

AGENT SHOOTS MPLS. SUSPECT; INSURRECTION ACT COMING?

By **LIZ SAWYER**
The Minnesota Star Tribune

A new wave of angry protests erupted in Minneapolis after a federal agent shot and wounded a Venezuelan immigrant during an arrest attempt on Jan. 14 on the city's North Side.

The reignited tensions brought fresh pleas for calm from elected officials in a city on edge for more than a week over the fatal shooting of Renee

Good by an ICE agent.

The Twin Cities area has been at the center of the largest immigration crackdown in American history since shortly after the start of the new year.

Hours of clashes between demonstrators and law enforcement left residential streets blanketed by tear gas Wednesday night. Hours later, President Donald Trump threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act to squelch protests and civil

unrest. The use of the U.S. military to patrol American streets and restrain civilians is exceptionally rare.

In response, Gov. Tim Walz posted a direct appeal to Trump on social media: "Stop this campaign of retribution."

The chaotic chain of events began about 6:50 p.m. Wednesday, when federal authorities conducted a "targeted traffic stop" on an undocumented migrant who they said fled

the scene in his vehicle before crashing into a parked car in the Hawthorne neighborhood. When the agent caught up with the man, he "began to resist and violently assault the officer," said Tricia McLaughlin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Homeland Security. The department has not specified the federal agent's agency.

During a struggle on the ground, two men rushed from a nearby residence and, along-

side the original arrest target, attacked the officer with a snow shovel and a broom handle, McLaughlin said. The agent fired a defensive shot "fearing for his life," she added, striking the suspect in the leg.

All three men, later identified as Venezuelan nationals, reportedly ran back into the home and barricaded themselves until they were ultimately arrested.

Both the agent and the suspect, Julio Cesar Sosa-Celis,

were hospitalized with unspecified injuries.

On Jan. 15, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem denounced the event as "an attempted murder of federal law enforcement" and called on Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey to "get their city under control."

The DHS said that Sosa-Celis entered the country illegally in 2022 and was previously convicted of driving without

SEE PROTESTS ON A6 »

On streets, standoffs, invective and danger

By **LIZ SAWYER**
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Reported ICE activity sent concerned citizens racing to Knollwood Mall last week, determined to track a convoy of unmarked vehicles carrying federal immigration agents.

It took less than half a mile for the agents to spot the tail.

One agent accelerated, then slammed on his brakes — immediately causing a minor collision with a Honda CR-V behind him. Abigail Salm, trailing two cars back, pulled over to film the encounter as men in camouflage pulled two occupants out of the SUV.

"Listen. Have y'all not learned from the last couple of days?" an officer clad in tactical gear said to Salm, 27. The fatal shooting of Renee Good happened 48 hours earlier.

"Learned what?" Salm pressed, according to a video of the interaction. "What's our lesson here?"

"Following federal agents ..." he said with an expletive, snatching the phone from her hand.

A heated verbal exchange resulted in her brief detention at the scene, alongside Blake Road in Hopkins on Jan. 9. Salm said she was restrained, manhandled and threatened to be shot by an armed agent.

"Operation Metro Surge," touted by President Donald Trump as the largest immigration crackdown in history, deployed a legion of federal agents across the Twin Cities that far surpasses any single Minnesota police force.

A growing number of bystanders and trained observers are mobilizing to lawfully monitor those federal enforcement efforts. They say agents are responding with increasing aggression that includes detainment, overt threats and physical abuse.

Viral video clips of violent arrests and emotional firsthand

SEE OBSERVERS ON A5 »



Protesters and federal agents clash on Jan. 14 after an agent shot a man they were trying to arrest in north Minneapolis. Agents and protesters converged on the scene, with protesters hurling vitriol and agents throwing flash-bangs. Above right, two people comfort each other.

Photos by **RICHARD TSONG-TAATARIL** and **JEFF WHEELER** • The Minnesota Star Tribune

Ex-prosecutors seek BCA inclusion in Good probe

By **JEFFREY MEITRODT** and **SARAH NELSON**
The Minnesota Star Tribune

A group of 33 former federal prosecutors in Minnesota are asking the Trump administration to reconsider its decision to exclude the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension from the investiga-

tion into the fatal shooting of Renee Good by a federal agent last week, according to a Jan. 14 letter obtained by the Minnesota Star Tribune.

The move comes one day after a group of six prosecutors, including former acting U.S. Attorney Joe Thompson, resigned their jobs to protest the decision and other recent

moves by the U.S. Department of Justice.

In the letter, the former prosecutors said the scale of the departures is unprecedented in Minnesota and will hamper the government's ability to prosecute fraudsters, which Trump officials have cited as a reason for bringing 3,000 ICE agents to the state.

"Yesterday was the darkest day for federal law enforcement in my 51 years of practicing law," former Assistant U.S. Attorney Doug Kelley said in an interview. "When dedicated public servants who have spent their lives prosecuting cases find it necessary to resign because they are

SEE RESIGNATIONS ON A5 »

1807 Insurrection Act is rarely invoked
Law allows president to deploy military on U.S. streets. **A7**

Judge sides with Minnesota on SNAP benefits
Food aid will continue after court issues injunction against USDA. **A10**

ICE increases workplace audits
Agency targeting small and midsize businesses in Minnesota. **D1**

Effort to open mining near BWCWA could endanger protections

By **CHLOE JOHNSON**
The Minnesota Star Tribune

Rep. Pete Stauber is once again pushing to allow mining in the watershed of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness — but this time, the attempt could also empower lawmakers to overturn similar mining bans across the country.

Stauber has introduced a resolution to nullify a Biden-era action that banned mining in 225,000 acres of Superior National Forest. It's the first time a lawmaker has tried to apply the Congressional Review Act to such a mining ban and could throw into question all bans implemented over the past two decades, advocates across the

political spectrum agreed.

Stauber, in a statement, said he was "proud to stand with the hardworking men and women of Northern Minnesota and protect our region's way of life and our rich, 145-year mining history." His office did not respond to a request for an interview.

If the attempt to reopen mining is successful, it would have

"a number of broader impacts beyond the really devastating impacts for the Boundary Waters," said Alison Flint, the legal director for conservation group the Wilderness Society.

A memo prepared by the Interior Department this month tallied at least 28 similar bans on federal lands the past 25 years. In 2022, the administration

of then-President Joe Biden concluded that hardrock mining could not be done in the Superior Forest without the risk of lakes, streams and rivers carrying pollution into the protected Boundary Waters. That decision effectively cut off the prospects of Twin Metals, a company owned by Chilean firm Antofagasta, which has proposed an

underground copper-nickel mine near Babbitt, Minn.

If the Minnesota ban is rolled back using the Congressional Review Act, a new presidential administration would not be able to bring it back. Only Congress could reinstate a similar prohibition on mining.

"This is probably the realest

SEE MINING ON A10 »

TOP NEWS
European troops continue to arrive in Greenland in a show of support for Denmark. **A3**

NATION & WORLD
Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado visits the White House. **A3**

STATE & REGION
When the USDA paused the state's federal funds, Willmar bird flu lab was included. **A4**

SPORTS
The Vikings need McCarthy, Addison to live up to first-round billing, Jim Souhan writes. **C1**

BUSINESS
Dr. Jakob Tolar, U Medical School dean, is stepping down amid program's instability. **D1**

VARIETY
Second installment of the "28 Years Later" trilogy is a taut — and bloody — continuation. **E1**

HAVE YOU HEARD?
Rare sighting of lynx kittens in Voyageurs National Park gives experts hope for the future of the animal in Minnesota. **A4**

THE HEART AND VOICE OF THE NORTH
Online: startribune.com • News tips: 612-673-4414 • Comments: 612-673-4000
Subscriptions: 612-673-4343 or go to startribune.com/subscribe

THE MINNESOTA STAR TRIBUNE
Minneapolis, St. Paul MN • Volume XLIV • No. 287
January 16, 2026

