



**Office of the New York State Attorney General Letitia James**

**Office of Special Investigation**

May 7, 2026

# Report on the Investigation into the Death of King Wong

## OVERVIEW

New York Executive Law Section 70-b (Section 70-b) directs the Attorney General's Office of Special Investigation (OSI) to investigate and, if warranted, to prosecute offenses arising from any incident in which the death of a person is caused by a police officer or a peace officer. When, as in this case, OSI does not seek charges against the officer, Section 70-b requires OSI to issue a public report describing its investigation. This is the public report of OSI's investigation of the death of King Wong, who was shot and killed on April 14, 2025, by officers of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) in Queens County.

On April 14, 2025, at 6:25 a.m., four NYPD officers responding to multiple 911 calls of a man with a knife, encountered Mr. Wong as he walked across 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Astoria, Queens. Mr. Wong held a kitchen knife in his right hand. The officers repeatedly ordered Mr. Wong to drop the knife. Two officers Tased Mr. Wong. The Tasers had no effect. Mr. Wong did not drop the knife and walked quickly toward the officers. Three of the officers opened fire with their service weapons. Mr. Wong was shot eleven times and later died from his injuries.

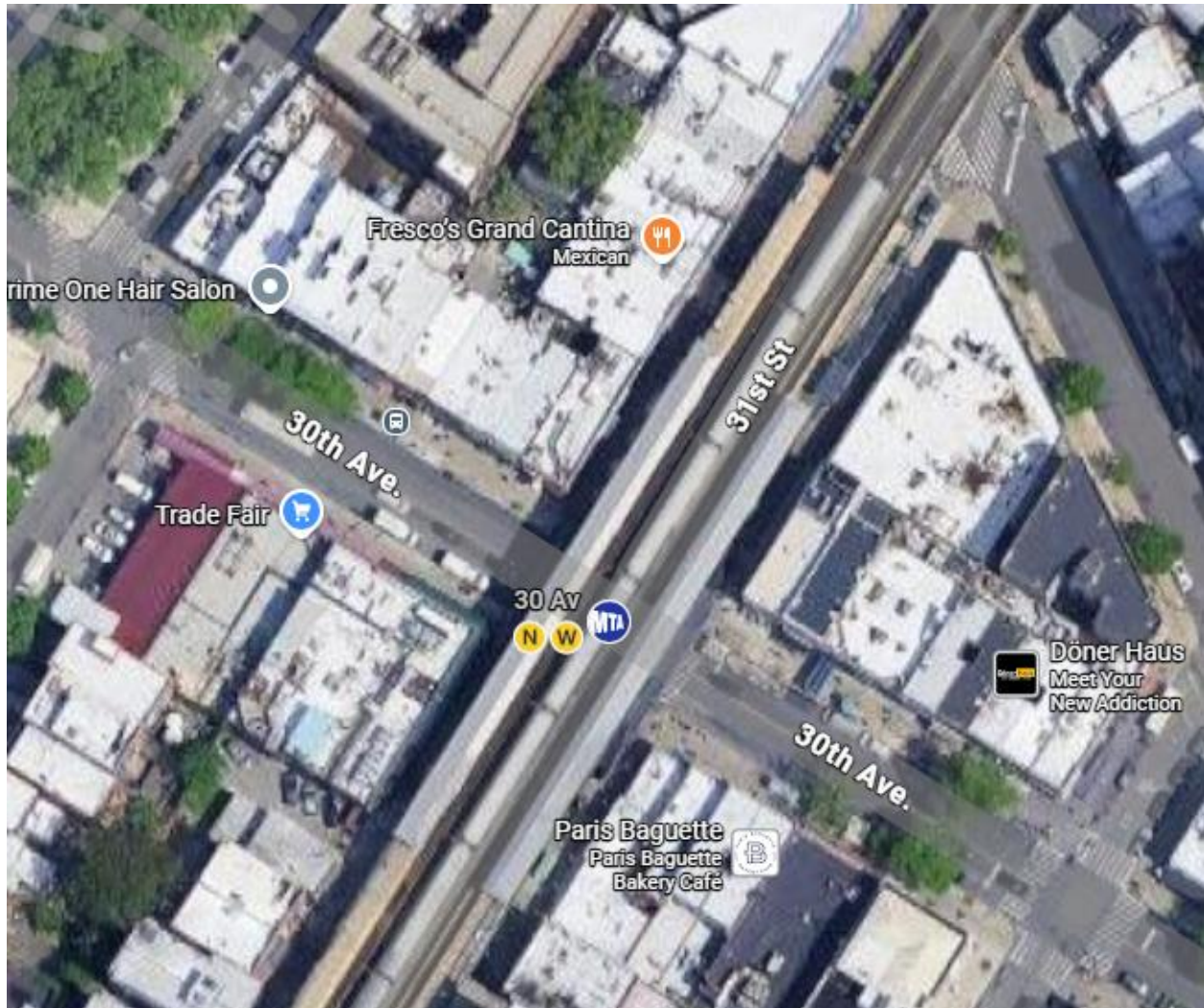
Mr. Wong was 61 years old when he died.

Having thoroughly investigated the facts and analyzed the law, OSI concludes a prosecutor would not be able to disprove beyond a reasonable doubt that the officers' use of deadly force against Mr. Wong was justified under New York law and, therefore, will not seek charges and closes the matter with this report.

## FACTS

### Background

The shooting occurred on 31<sup>st</sup> Street between 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 30<sup>th</sup> Drive in Queens, New York. 31<sup>st</sup> Street is a two-way street under an elevated train with traffic going east and west separated by a double yellow line.



Google Earth image showing 31<sup>st</sup> Street and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

OSI interviewed the three shooting officers and one witness officer. Officer Jonathan Acosta joined NYPD in 2020 and was assigned to the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct in July of 2021. Officer Kendouchy Coissy and Officer Robert Lamonica joined NYPD and were assigned to the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct in 2023. None of the officers had ever fired their service weapons before April 14, 2025, except in firearms training at the shooting range. Officer Jose Tavarez, who did not fire his service weapon, joined NYPD and was assigned to the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct in 2023.

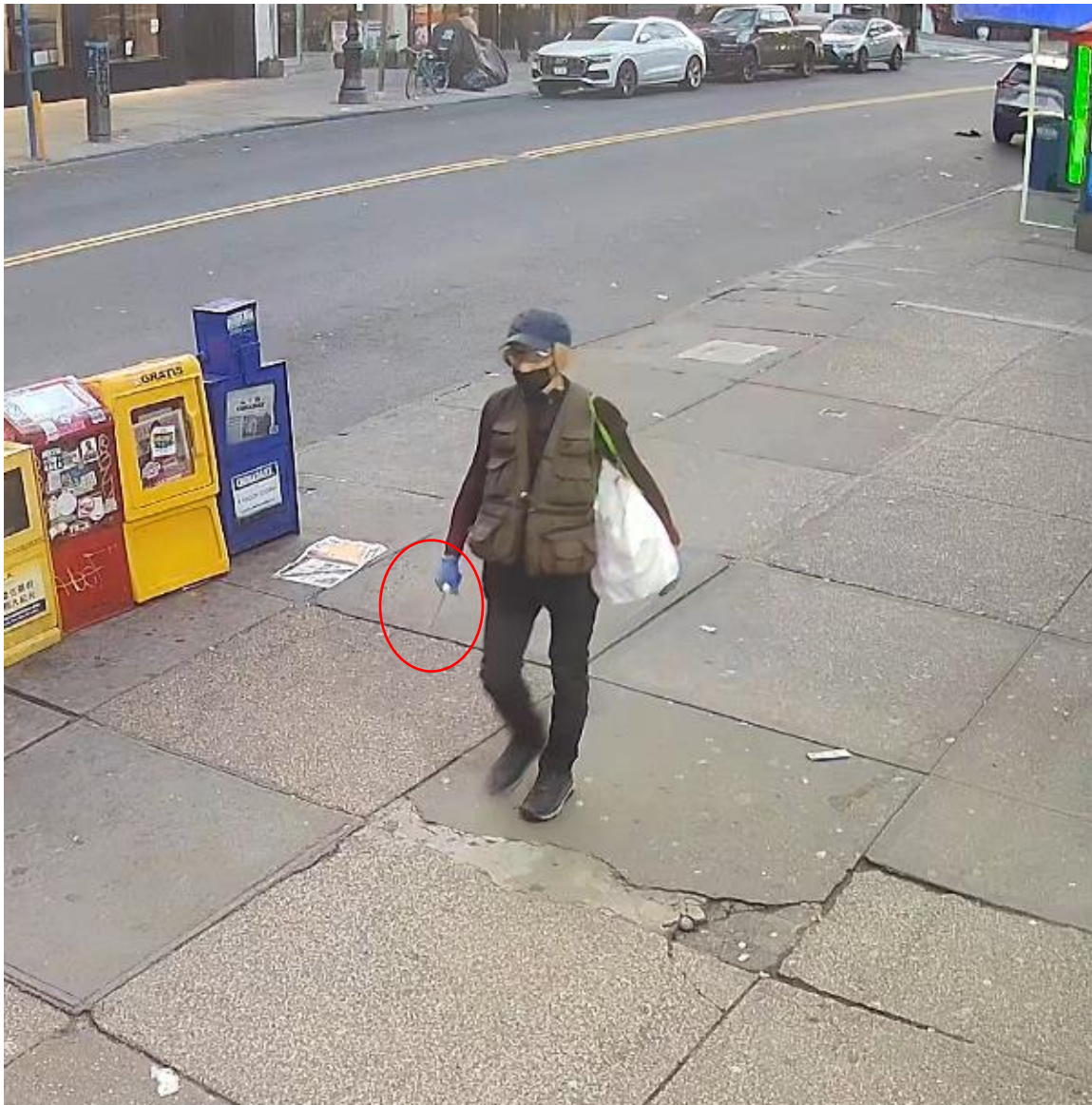
None of the officers had encountered Mr. Wong before April 14, 2025.

### Events Leading to the Shooting

According to police paperwork and 911 recordings, three people called 911 at 6:21 a.m. and 6:22 a.m. on April 14, 2025, to report that a man with a mask and a vest was holding a large

knife as he walked along 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Queens and looked into store windows and at people. A 911 caller said that it appeared as if the person was “trying to hunt somebody.”

Security videos from cameras along 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue showed Mr. Wong, wearing a vest, surgical gloves, and a hospital mask, as he walked with a large knife in his hand and stopped and looked into stores along the street.



*Still from Security Video showing Mr. Wong as he walked along 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue; a knife (circled in red) is visible in his right hand.*

Officer Coissy and Officer Lamonica told OSI they were on patrol, in uniform, and in a marked police car when they heard over the police radio that a man with a knife was in the vicinity of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. Officer Coissy drove, and Officer Lamonica was the passenger.

According to BWC video ([Officer Coissy BWC](#) ; [Officer Lamonica BWC](#)), at 6:25 a.m., as the officers drove along 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and passed 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, they were flagged down by a bystander. Officer Coissy stopped the car, and the bystander said that a man was waving a knife and staring at people.

Officer Tavarez told OSI that he drove a marked police car along 31<sup>st</sup> Street, under elevated train tracks, with his partner, Officer Acosta. Both officers were in uniform. Although they heard the radio dispatch of a person with a knife, they were not going to respond to the call because they were wrapping up an overnight shift and headed back to the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Officer Acosta said, as they approached the intersection of 31<sup>st</sup> Street and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, they slowed for a red light and Mr. Wong crossed in front of the car. Officer Acosta and Officer Tavarez said they saw a large knife in Mr. Wong's hand. Officer Tavarez said Mr. Wong appeared to be talking to himself. Officer Acosta said, "That's him," to Officer Tavarez. Officer Acosta said he put their location over the police radio, opened the passenger side door, and stepped out of the car.

Officer Lamonica and Officer Coissy told OSI they heard Officer Acosta give his location over the police radio as 31<sup>st</sup> Street and 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, about one block from where they were. Officer Coissy drove quickly to Officer Acosta's location.

According to BWC video ([Officer Acosta BWC](#) ; [Officer Tavarez BWC](#)), at 6:25:03 a.m., Officer Acosta got out of the passenger side of the police car, unholstered his gun, and ordered Mr. Wong to drop the knife. Mr. Wong moved to the passenger side of the police car, waved the knife at Officer Acosta, and shouted at him. Officer Tavarez and Officer Acosta said they did not understand what Mr. Wong was saying.



Still frame from Officer Acosta's BWC video showing Mr. Wong with the knife in his right hand (circled) after he took a step toward Officer Acosta as Officer Acosta stood by the passenger side of the police car.



*Still frame from Officer Tavarez's BWC video, from the driver's side of the police car, showing Mr. Wong holding the knife (circled).*

According to BWC video, at 6:25:56 a.m. Officer Tavarez Tased Mr. Wong. The Taser prongs stuck to Mr. Wong's clothing around his chest area but did not appear to have any effect. At 6:25:36 a.m. Officer Coissy and Officer Lamonica ran on the east sidewalk toward Mr. Wong. Officer Tavarez told Officer Coissy and Officer Lamonica to shoot their Tasers at Mr. Wong's back.



*Still frame from Officer Tavarez's BWC video showing the Taser wires extended from the Taser in the direction of Mr. Wong and showing Officers Coissy and Lamonica (circled) running toward Mr. Wong.*

Mr. Wong crossed to the west side of the street as Officers Tavarez, Coissy, Lamonica, and Acosta followed him on foot. The officers repeatedly ordered Mr. Wong to drop the knife.



*Still frame from Officer Tavaréz's BWC video showing Mr. Wong crossing the street as officers followed.*

According to BWC video, at 6:25:49 a.m. Officer Coissy fired his Taser at Mr. Wong's back. Officer Coissy said that the Taser had no effect. Officer Coissy said he holstered his Taser, unholstered his firearm, and pointed it at Mr. Wong.

### **The Shooting**

According to BWC and security video, Mr. Wong walked quickly south on 31<sup>st</sup> Street as the officers followed. The officers told Mr. Wong to drop the knife. Mr. Wong abruptly turned to face the officers with the knife in his right hand. He walked toward Officer Lamonica who was furthest from Mr. Wong.

Officer Coissy and Officer Tavaréz told OSI that Mr. Wong "lunged" at Officer Lamonica. Officer Lamonica told OSI that Mr. Wong got about ten feet from him, with the knife in his right hand. Officer Lamonica said he feared for his life. Officer Lamonica, Officer Acosta, and Officer Coissy opened fire. Officer Acosta said he fired because he feared that Mr. Wong would stab Officer Lamonica. Mr. Wong fell to the ground after he was shot.



*Still from Officer Lamonica's BWC video showing Mr. Wong walking toward Officer Lamonica with the knife in his hand just before the officers opened fire.*

## **The Aftermath**

According to BWC video, the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct officers began life-saving measures on Mr. Wong, including applying tourniquets to Mr. Wong's legs, and called for an ambulance. The ambulance arrived at 6:27 a.m., about one minute after the shooting.

Mr. Wong was taken by ambulance to Elmhurst Hospital. According to BWC video, the ambulance arrived at the hospital at 6:40 a.m. According to medical records, Mr. Wong had gunshot wounds to his chest, abdomen, and legs. He was pronounced dead at 7:21 a.m.

Officers Tavarez, Coissy, Lamonica, and Acosta were taken to Mount Sinai Queens Hospital. The officers said they were diagnosed with tinnitus and released. According to NYPD paperwork, an officer from NYPD's Highway Unit administered portable breath tests to Officers Lamonica, Coissy, and Acosta at around 8:00 a.m. The officers registered .000 on the tests, indicating that there was no alcohol in their system.

## **Evidence Collection and Analysis**

NYPD's Crime Scene Unit (CSU) processed the scene for forensic and ballistics evidence.

Officer Lamonica and Officer Coissy were armed with Glock 17 semiautomatic firearms. Officer Acosta carried a Glock 19 semiautomatic firearm. The firearms were loaded with Speer

brand 9mm ammunition. CSU recovered 16 shell casings from the scene of the shooting. Ballistic and microscopic analysis determined that Officer Lamonica fired nine times, Officer Acosta fired five times, and Officer Coissy fired twice.

CSU also recovered a large kitchen knife on the ground.



*CSU photo of the knife.*

### **Medical Examination and Autopsy**

Dr. Cynthia Harris of the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner conducted the autopsy. Mr. Wong was shot once in the torso, once in the abdomen, once in the buttocks, three times in the back, once in the right thigh, twice in the left thigh, once in the right hand, and once in the right wrist. Dr. Harris deemed the cause of death to be “gunshot wound of torso and lower extremities” and the manner of death to be “homicide (shot by police).”

### **LAW**

Article 35 of the New York Penal Law defines the circumstances under which a person may be justified in using deadly force against another. Justification is a defense, not an affirmative defense, Penal Law Section (PL) 35.00. To obtain a conviction at trial, a prosecutor must disprove a defense beyond a reasonable doubt, PL 25.00(1). As detailed below, based on the evidence in this investigation, OSI concludes that a prosecutor would be unable to disprove beyond a reasonable doubt that the use of deadly physical force by the officers was justified.

In this case, the officers used deadly physical force. Under PL 10.00(1) deadly physical force is “physical force which, under the circumstances in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or other serious physical injury.” Under PL 10.00(10) serious physical injury is

“physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes death or serious and protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.”

PL 35.30 is the provision defining justification when a police officer or peace officer uses force to effect or attempt to effect an arrest.

PL 35.30(1) provides:

A police officer or a peace officer, in the course of effecting or attempting to effect an arrest ... of a person whom he or she reasonably believes to have committed an offense, may use physical force when and to the extent he or she reasonably believes such to be necessary to effect the arrest ... or in self-defense or to defend a third person from what he or she reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of physical force; except that deadly physical force may be used for such purposes only when he or she reasonably believes that ... (c) regardless of the particular offense which is the subject of the arrest ... the use of deadly physical force is necessary to defend the police officer or peace officer or another person from what the officer reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of deadly physical force.

Under the law, therefore, deadly physical force by a police officer is justified when the officer reasonably believes deadly force is necessary to defend the officer or another against the imminent use of deadly physical force. Police officers using deadly force pursuant to PL 35.30(1) are under no duty to retreat when threatened with deadly physical force, according to PL 35.15(2)(a)(ii).

In *People v Jairo Castillo*, 42 NY3d 628, 631 (2024), the New York Court of Appeals stated:

The defense of justification provides that a person may use physical force to defend himself against an assailant’s ‘imminent use of unlawful physical force,’ but does not authorize the use of ‘deadly physical force . . . unless . . . [the person] reasonably believes that [the assailant] . . . is using or about to use deadly physical force’ (Penal Law § 35.15). When considering a request for a justification charge, courts examine the evidence in the light most favorable to the defendant, and must provide the instruction if there is any reasonable view of the evidence that defendant was justified in his actions (see *People v Heiserman*, 39 NY3d 988, 990 [2022]). Justification has both a subjective requirement, that ‘defendant . . . actually believed . . . he [was] . . . threatened with the imminent use of deadly physical force,’ and an objective requirement, that defendant’s ‘reactions were . . . those of a reasonable man acting in self-

defense' (*People v Collice*, 41 NY2d 906, 907 [1977]). (Ellipses and square brackets in original.)

Here, the officers were responding to 911 calls of a man with a knife. They encountered Mr. Wong on a public street holding a large knife in his hand. Mr. Wong waved the knife in the officers' direction and refused repeated commands to drop it. Mr. Wong committed the Penal Law offense of menacing a police officer. Both Officer Tarez and Officer Coissy Tased Mr. Wong. The Tasers had no effect. As the officers circled Mr. Wong, Mr. Wong walked quickly in the direction of Officer Lamonica with the knife in his hand. Officer Lamonica, Acosta, and Coissy opened fire, striking Mr. Wong and killing him.

Based on the law and the evidence, OSI concludes a prosecutor would not be able to disprove beyond a reasonable doubt that the officers' use of deadly force against Mr. Wong was justified under New York law. As a result, OSI will not seek charges and closes the matter with this report.

Dated: May 7, 2026