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NEWS RELEASE

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Ramsey County Attorney announces criminal charges against police officer in death of Philando Castile

Officer Jeronimo Yanez to make first court appearance Friday afternoon

Saint Paul, Minnesota - The Ramsey County Attorney's Office (RCAO) today charged St. Anthony Police Officer Jeronimo Yanez with [Second Degree Manslaughter](#) in the death of Philando Castile and two additional felony counts of [Intentional Discharge of a Dangerous Weapon](#) that endangered the safety of Diamond Reynolds and her four-year-old daughter in connection with a July 6, 2016, traffic stop in Falcon Heights, Minnesota. Yanez will make his first appearance at 1:30 p.m. Friday in Ramsey County District Court at the Ramsey County Law Enforcement Center, 425 Grove Street in St. Paul.

"Based upon our thorough and exhaustive review of the facts, I have come to the conclusion that there simply was no justification for the use of deadly force by Officer Yanez in this case. No reasonable officer who knew, saw, and heard what Officer Yanez did at the time would have used deadly force under these circumstances," said Ramsey County Attorney John Choi. "I ask for the public's continued patience, trust and respect for the integrity of the process as we prosecute this case and seek justice for Philando Castile, his family and friends, including Diamond Reynolds and her daughter, and our broader community."

The attached criminal complaint goes into detail about the events that transpired that day, as revealed by the investigation to-date. Please visit [RCAO News & Updates](#) page for complete information.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Note: Related case items, including the criminal complaint, a copy of Ramsey County Attorney John Choi's press statement and a video of the November 16, 2016 press event can be found online at the [RCAO News & Updates](#) page.