THE COCHRAN REPARATIVE JUSTICE COMMISSION, INC.

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TRUTH | JUSTICE | REPARATION

October 28, 2026

The Honorable Lynn Fitch
Attorney General of Mississippi
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 220
Jackson, MS 39205

Request for Reconsideration in the Death of Kohen Wiley

Dear Attorney General Fitch:

The Cochran Reparative Justice Foundation strongly disagrees with your office's October 19, 2026 determination that the use of force in the June 14, 2026 Senatobia shooting that killed one-year-old Kohen Wiley was justified, and with the decision to decline prosecution. We request reconsideration and an independent review of the evidence and legal conclusions.

Our Foundation advances reparative justice and accountability for enduring racial injustice. Kohen was a child whose life deserved protection. His death demands a thorough examination of the officers' actions and a public explanation sufficient to evaluate the state's decision.

We acknowledge the state's October 22 release of video footage. Public reporting on that footage describes shots fired toward the windshield and into the side of the vehicle, while identifying limits in camera timing and angles. Those questions call for a synchronized forensic reconstruction. The asserted danger from the vehicle requires examination of the threat to every officer and whether that threat continued at each discharge.

We request the following actions:

1. Reconsideration and independent review. Arrange a fresh review by qualified prosecutors and forensic specialists who did not participate in the original determination, using a lawful process that protects their independence. Identify who will conduct it and the expected timetable. Reconsider grand-jury presentation if the evidence and applicable law warrant it.

2. A written explanation of the decision. Identify the Mississippi criminal statutes, defenses, and evidentiary standards applied, the offenses considered, and the evidence supporting the decision not to prosecute. Explain the scope of the finding that the force was justified and whether any conduct was referred for separate administrative review.

3. Analysis of every shot and the preceding encounter. Explain the officer's location, the vehicle's movement, and the perceived danger to the officer or others at each discharge. Address whether any shots followed the passage of the vehicle beyond an officer, and how the approach to the car, weapon deployment, officer positioning, and opportunities to de-escalate were evaluated. Explain what officers could reasonably perceive about the passengers and how the risk to them was assessed.

4. Confirmation that the investigation was complete. State whether Kohen's mother, the driver, relevant civilian witnesses, and every involved officer were interviewed. Complete any material omissions and explain any unavailable interviews. Address relevant surveillance footage, ballistics, autopsy findings, and any independent forensic evidence submitted by the family's attorneys.

5. Preservation and disclosure of evidence. Preserve all original recordings, metadata, physical evidence, reports, and communications concerning the incident and its investigation. Coordinate with the agencies holding the records to identify materials already released and disclose remaining records to the extent permitted by law. For withheld material, identify the category and legal basis and release any portions that can lawfully be separated, with appropriate protection for the family's privacy.

6. Federal review and communication with the family. Refer the evidence to the U.S. Department of Justice for an independent assessment of potential federal civil-rights violations and cooperate fully with any review. Arrange a substantive briefing for Kohen's family through their attorneys and explain how the family will receive future notices and answers to its outstanding questions.

We ask for a written response within 30 days of receipt, addressing each request and identifying the official responsible for follow-up. If an action is declined or requires more time, please explain why and provide an expected response date.

Kohen's family deserves an explanation that addresses the evidence and their questions directly. We urge you to reopen this matter for independent scrutiny and explain how your office will ensure accountability for the death of this child.

Respectfully,

Carlos Mason

Carlos Mason
President
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