

Slain man's family demands answers

- Fong Lee was shot multiple times by a Minneapolis police officer early Saturday evening.

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About 150 of Fong Lee's family members and friends packed the Minneapolis City Hall rotunda Wednesday to list grievances over the Police Department's response to an officer fatally shooting Lee.

His father, Nou Kai Lee, silently held up a sign reading, "Justice for Fong," as a representative of the Hmong Advocacy Coalition called for answers and said that a complaint had been filed with the city's Civil Rights Department.

Questions continues: Police chief meets with family. **B3 ►**



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Fong Lee's mother, Youa Lee, sang a mournful song in the arms of her other son, Donny Lee, at the spot where Fong Lee died after being shot on Saturday by a Minneapolis police officer. At least 100 supporters traveled to the site after a City Hall news conference Wednesday afternoon.

Family, friends of man shot to death by police demand answers

QUESTIONS FROM BI

"We need answers so we can start the healing process," said the representative, Lee Pao Xiong.

Lee, 19, was shot and killed Saturday by officer Jason Andersen after an alleged drug transaction and short chase at Cityview Elementary School, 3350 N. 4th St.

Interim Police Chief Tim Dolan arrived unannounced at the rally, which lasted about 10 minutes, and then spoke in private with Lee's parents, relatives, family attorneys and community leaders for about 40 minutes. Dolan also showed Lee's immediate family surveillance footage that captured parts of the incident.

In response to rumors that have circulated since Lee's death, Dolan later told a reporter that preliminary results show that Lee was apparently shot once in the lower buttock and that all other wounds were to the front part of his body. There were multiple hits, Dolan said, adding that it is unknown which shots were fired first. Rumors had persisted that Lee

was shot multiple times in his back.

And in response to e-mails questioning Andersen's past, Dolan confirmed that the officer — at the time still in the police academy — was disciplined sometime in 2005 for using a "derogatory racial term" while off duty. Dolan said he did not have details about the incident and would review it today. Andersen joined the department in 2005 and is assigned to the Fourth Precinct.

At the rally, Xiong said main concerns include the 12-hour gap from when Lee was shot to when his family was notified of his death, a lack of information from police, Andersen's permission to return to work just days after the shooting (he was initially put on paid administrative leave per protocol) and witness accounts that reportedly contradict police reports. Xiong refused to answer questions after the rally and instructed the family not to speak with the media.

It is unclear exactly what the civil rights complaint alleges about Lee's death. It was filed Wednesday.

While in the rotunda, Dolan

told the group that the police have worked with community leaders and are open to future meetings. He later said that the delay in notifying Lee's family was a matter of properly identifying his body.

After the rally, the throng in the rotunda decamped to Cityview Elementary to visit a makeshift memorial for Lee while his parents stayed behind to meet with Dolan.

"There were a lot of tears shed," Dolan said of the family's reaction to the surveillance video. "It was a very hard thing to see."

Lee's parents declined to answer questions Wednesday evening about their meeting with Dolan, but one of their attorneys, Rich Hechter, said, "We were all appreciative of what the chief did."

"It was extremely serious and somber," Hechter said, noting it was informative but the family still wants to know if deadly force was justified.

"Anytime a parent outlives his child... it's just a horrific, tragic situation."

The video shows Andersen chasing Lee before the camera panned

away during the shooting, Dolan said. It panned back to capture Lee lying on the ground as Andersen and State Trooper Craig Benz, who was on patrol with Andersen, approached him from about 20 feet away, the chief said.

According to police: The incident started when Andersen and Benz saw what appeared to be a hand-to-hand drug transaction among a group of people about 7 p.m. Saturday. Lee was the recipient of the alleged transaction and fled. He also had what appeared to be a gun. The officers gave chase. Andersen was the only person to fire a gun in the incident.

Dolan said a gun was found on the ground about two to three feet from Lee. Metro Gang Strike Force Commander Ron Ryan has said that Lee was known to associate with gang members. His police record includes a guilty plea to misdemeanor trespassing for a Jan. 12 arrest for breaking into a vacant house.

Emotions ran high at Cityview Elementary, where scores of community members quietly held a vigil, ban-

died about different theories about the shooting and questioned how race may have factored into the incident. A shaman, Khoua Cha Lee, prayed to heaven and earth to guide Lee's spirit in the afterlife. Khoua Cha Lee also asked that the truth bear out in the case and that if the officer was found at fault, that he pay for any wrongdoing.

Andersen was taken off paid administrative leave Tuesday — a point of contention for the family's attorneys and community leaders — but, according to Dolan, has chosen not to return to work yet.

Lee's mother arrived at the school later in the afternoon, wailing and chanting before offerings of food, beer, incense and flowers.

"I don't know what to think," said Lee's older sister, Shoua Lee. "There are too many stories. Too many twists and turns. Even the police have too many stories. I don't have one, though, except that he was perfect."

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