



CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT WEEK TRIES TO DRIVE TRAFFIC TO LOCAL EATERIES

► LIFESTYLES



PHILLIES CELEBRATE JACKIE ROBINSON DAY, RECOGNIZE PHILADELPHIA STARS

► SPORTS

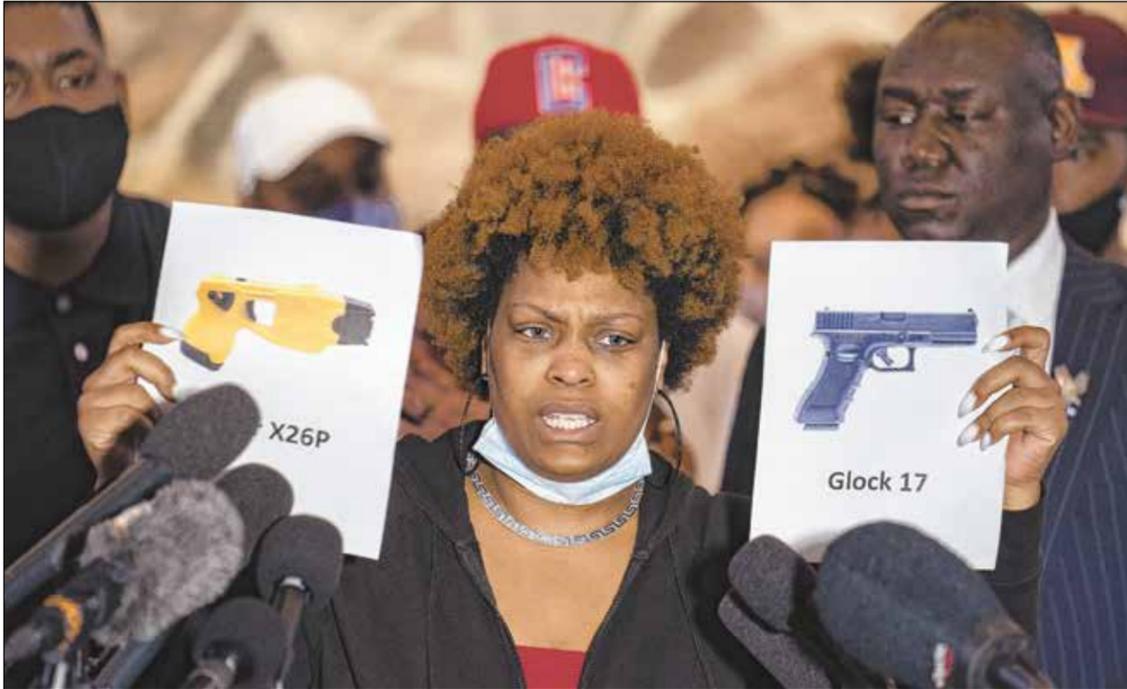
The Philadelphia Tribune

Vol. 137, No. 41

Friday, April 16, 2021 | www.phillytrib.com | \$2.00

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Family wants stiffer charge against fired Minnesota cop



Naisha Wright, aunt of the deceased Daunte Wright, holds up images depicting an X26P Taser and a Glock 17 handgun during a news conference Thursday at New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Minneapolis. — AP PHOTO/JOHN MINCHILLO

Manslaughter charge called insufficient for killing of Daunte Wright

Scott Bauer
Mike Householder

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. — Daunte Wright's family members joined with community leaders Thursday in calling for more serious charges against the white former police officer who fatally shot him, comparing her case to the murder charge brought against a Black officer who killed a white woman in nearby Minneapolis.

Former Brooklyn Center police officer Kim Potter was charged with second-degree manslaughter in Sunday's shooting of Wright, a 20-year-old Black man, during a traffic stop. The former police chief in Brooklyn Center, a majority nonwhite suburb, said Potter mistakenly fired her handgun when she meant to use her Taser. Both the chief and Potter resigned Tuesday.

Potter — who was released on \$100,000 bond hours after her arrest Wednesday — appeared alongside her attorney, Earl Gray, at her initial appearance Thursday over Zoom, saying very little. Gray kept his camera on himself for most of the hearing,



Daunte Wright and his son, Daunte Jr., at his first birthday party. — BEN CRUMP LAW, PLLC. VIA AP

swiveling it to show Potter only briefly. Her next court appearance was set for May 17.

Wright's family members and protesters who have confronted police all week since his death say there's no excuse for the shooting.

"Unfortunately, there's never going to be justice for us," Wright's mother, Katie Wright, said at a news conference Thursday. "Justice isn't even a word to me. I do want accountability."

DAUNTE • 5A



Mayor Jim Kenney's proposed fiscal 2022 budget projects revenue will rise 13.4%, mostly from federal aid. — WHY? PHOTO/EMMA LEE

Kenney seeks 7.8% spending increase in \$5.18B budget

Mayor says proposal would help Black, brown residents

Michael D'Onofrio
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Mayor Jim Kenney proposed a \$5.18 billion budget with no property tax increases owing to anticipated revenue rebounds to near-coronavirus pandemic levels and the federal stimulus package.

Kenney's sixth proposed budget would boost year-over-year spending by 7.8% (\$375 million). Revenue is expected to jump by 13.4% compared with the current fiscal year, with the bulk coming from the American Rescue Plan (\$575 million), which passed last month.

Before the passage of the federal stimulus package, Finance Director Robert Dubow said the city was

facing an "ugly budget" with at least a \$450 million spending gap that would have called for "major cuts to our departments" and "significant tax increases." The federal funding won't fully make up for revenue losses stemming from the pandemic but staves off cuts and layoffs.

"It would have been a devastating budget without the federal money," Dubow said on Wednesday during a budget preview with news reporters.

During his budget address to legislators on Thursday, Kenney said his proposed plan for fiscal year 2022 would improve the lives of Black and brown residents.

BUDGET • 4A

Derek Chauvin declines to testify

Defense ends after two days; closing arguments set for Monday

Shailla Dewan
John Eligon
Tim Arango

MINNEAPOLIS — He settled into a swiveling chair, sitting upright and a bit stiff, in a mostly empty courtroom.

Holding a microphone in front of his chest, Derek Chauvin removed a blue mask to reveal a clean-shaven face.

As his lawyer, Eric Nelson, asked a series of questions, Chauvin dipped his body toward the microphone and uttered the first words the public has heard from him in the more than 10 months since the death of George Floyd on May 25.

"Have you made a decision today whether you intend to testify or whether you intend to invoke your Fifth Amendment privilege?" Nelson asked. "I will invoke my Fifth Amendment privilege today," Chauvin said.

With that, the defense rested its case in the murder trial of Chauvin, a former police officer. After 13 days of testimony, the jury was offered no glimpse behind the impassive expression maintained by Chauvin, hands in his pockets and sunglasses on his head, as he knelt on the neck of Floyd on a South Minneap-



Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin tells Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill on Thursday that he will not testify on his own behalf. At left is defense attorney Eric Nelson. — COURT TV VIA AP, POOL

olis street for more than nine minutes.

The jury is expected to hear closing arguments on Monday and could deliver a verdict next week. The city is bracing for reaction from residents, including the potential for widespread

unrest in the event that Chauvin is acquitted. The court plans to begin evacuating government buildings before the verdict is read.

FLOYD • 5A



Angela Davis has been a longtime supporter of Mumia Abu-Jamal. — TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Mumia Abu-Jamal expected to have heart surgery soon

Ayana Jones
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Imprisoned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal has been hospitalized and is scheduled to undergo heart surgery within the next few days.

He was rushed to an area hospital after experiencing heart pain over the weekend. Abu-Jamal was recently diagnosed with congestive heart failure and COVID-19.

"One of the greatest harms to Mumia is state violence," said his chosen doctor, Dr. Ricardo Alvarez. "We support Mumia from

the only possible treatment, which is freedom."

Supporters of Abu-Jamal held a virtual emergency news conference Thursday evening to highlight his condition and call for specific demands. According to his wife Wadiya Jamal, and MOVE member Pam Africa, who says she speaks with Abu-Jamal daily, they have not been able to reach him for four days.

Supporters' demands included that before surgery Abu-Jamal be allowed to call his wife, Wadiya Jamal; his longtime supporter,

MUMIA • 5A