



Written by [Veronika Kyrylenko](#) on April 12, 2021

Protests Turn Violent in Minnesota After Police Shoot Another Young Black Man

Tensions have been running high in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, after police shot a young black man during a traffic stop. The incident sparked protests that have descended into violence.

Several hundred people [holding](#) Black Lives Matter signs flocked to the Brooklyn Center Police Department, protesting the death of Daunte Wright, 20, who was shot by police during what appeared to be a routine traffic stop on Sunday afternoon.

According to the [police](#), the officers who stopped Wright's car "determined that the driver of the vehicle had an outstanding [arrest] warrant," and sought to take him into custody. It's unclear what transpired next, with police saying that Wright "re-entered the vehicle," which prompted one of the officers to open fire. Wright then drove "several blocks before striking another vehicle," and was pronounced dead at the scene, while a woman in the passenger seat of Wright's vehicle was injured in the crash and was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) [has launched](#) an investigation into the incident, with police saying the officers involved in the shooting are believed to have worn body cameras, and that their dash cam was also working.



AP Images

Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott [addressed](#) those in the community "filled with grief" in a statement published at 2:00 a.m. stating that he would continue to support "peaceful gatherings," but also called for "transparency and accountability." As the situation deteriorated, Mayor Elliott [imposed](#) a city-wide curfew, saying, "We want to make sure everyone is safe. Please be safe and please go home." Metro Transit, the main public transportation operator in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area, [announced](#) Sunday that it was shutting down public transit in Brooklyn Center at the request of law enforcement. Brooklyn Center Community Schools [announced](#) that schools will be closed Monday due to the civil unrest, but classes will be held virtually.

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Minnesota Governor Tim Walz (D) [posted](#) on social media Sunday night that he's monitoring the situation in Brooklyn Center and is praying for Wright's family after another Black man's life was "taken by law enforcement."

Speaking at a press conference, Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington detailed how the unrest unfolded. He said the demonstrators gathered shortly after the shooting and crash, with some [jumping on](#) police cars and [smashing](#) them while officers stood nearby, and [confronting](#) officers. The *Star Tribune*'s Liz Sawyer shared several videos of clashes between the police and protesters. In a post of [one video](#), she tweeted "'Are we at war?!' A protester yells as flash bang grenades explode around us. 'Feels like we at war.'" Marchers descended upon the Brooklyn Center Police Department building where rocks and other objects were thrown at officers, Commissioner Harrington said. The front door of the Brooklyn Park Police Department, which is located next to Brooklyn Center, [was struck](#) by gunfire.

As the confrontation escalated, [the police](#) used tear gas, flash bangs, and rubber bullets to restore order. The demonstrators had largely dispersed by 1:15 a.m. Monday.

Many took advantage of the violent commotion and went on a free-of-charge shopping spree. The videos of lootings have flooded social media. [Walmart](#), [Nike](#), [GameStop](#), [Family Dollar](#), [Foot Locker](#), and [AT&T](#) were cleaned out; a [liquor store](#) lay in ruins; [Sally Beauty Supply](#) was ravaged; while a [gas station](#) convenience store, [O'Reilly Auto Parts](#), and many other unfortunate businesses were looted, vandalized and destroyed. Looters targeted as many as 20 stores in the Shingle Creek Crossing shopping mall two miles away from the epicenter of confrontation. The (formerly?) upscale Uptown district in Minneapolis, on West Lake Street, also was [reportedly](#) hit with looting.

To tame the unrest, the National Guard was [activated](#). It has already been deployed in nearby Minneapolis for the ongoing trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis police officer accused of murdering George Floyd last May. "At this time, we have essentially a full activation," Harrington [said](#). "You will see a robust assortment of National Guard, state and local police departments working together over the next two or three days as we once again prepare for the trial and also are prepared for any other and any further civil unrest that may come from the Brooklyn Center officer-involved shooting."

It is also [reported](#) that the judge in the murder trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin has denied the defense's move Monday to immediately sequester the jury following unrest in a nearby city.



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