



**Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage**

**658 Cedar Street, Suite G57**

**St. Paul MN 55155**

On April 11<sup>th</sup> 2021, Daunte Wright was killed by Brooklyn Center Police Officer Potter. What should have been a simple traffic stop, turned into another death of a member of our community. Officer Potter has maintained that Daunte's death was the result of a mistake between the use of her taser and firearm. The Council, along with members of our community maintain that this mistake should never have happened. Potter was a veteran on the force and the trainer of new officers on the use of tasers to de-escalate a situation. In December of last year Officer Potter was found guilty of first- and second-degree manslaughter in the death of Daunte. Under state guidelines, the recommended sentencing range for her crime is 6 to 8 ½ years in prison. Yet, Officer Potter was sentenced to only 2 years and her days in custody will be credited towards her sentence. So, for ending the life of a 24-year-old, Potter could be released in as little as 16 months.

The Council like our community is floored that such a low sentence was given for this crime. Many in our community feel cheated by the system. A system that not too long ago provided justice for the murder of George Floyd and encouraged the thought that unjust murders of African Americans by Police officers would not be tolerated. Officer Potter's sentencing serves as a reminder that there is still a great need for Police reform and accountability in our state. The Council has in the past and will continue to push for this reform at the Capitol. Currently, the Council is supporting legislation that will invest in community-based violence prevention and youth development programs. In addition, we will continue to improve human rights protections within policing standards (Peace Officer Standards Training Board reforms), end the use of pretextual traffic stops and increase access to effective legal aid services in underserved BIPOC communities.

What can you do? Join our efforts by calling and writing to your state elected representatives in the House and Senate to express the need for police accountability measures that protect the rights of all Minnesotans and address community recommendations for systemic change in policing and human rights protection. Find out who represents you at <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

Dr. Nerita Hughes

Board Chair

Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage