

# Group Raised Suspensions Before 5 Were Shot At Police Protest

BY AMY FORLITI  
AND STEVE KARNOWSKI  
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Protesters demanding justice for a black man fatally shot by Minneapolis police were settling in for their ninth night of demonstrations when something just didn't seem right.

Lingering in the crowd were four people who seemed out of place. They were asked to leave. Moments later, shots rang out about a block away.

"I really did think it was like firecrackers or something initially because it was so loud and there was like this acrid smell," protester Jie Wronski-Riley said. "I thought, 'Surely, they are not shooting at us.'"

Then Wronski-Riley heard the cries of wounded people on the ground. "I really understood the danger we were in and what had happened."

Police say five people were shot in the attack, which unfolded late Monday near a police precinct where dozens of protesters have been camped out since the Nov. 15 fatal shooting of Jamar Clark. None suffered life-threatening wounds.

Authorities arrested a 23-year-old white man, who remained in custody Tuesday evening, and a 32-year-old Hispanic man, who was later released. Two more men — both white, ages 26 and 21 — turned themselves in Tuesday afternoon.

According to police, Clark was shot after he struggled with officers. But some people who said they saw the shooting said the 24-year-old was handcuffed.

Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman said it will be up to a grand jury to decide whether to bring charges against officers in Clark's death.

Freeman issued a statement Tuesday after repeated requests by black activist groups to make the decision himself rather than go to a grand jury. Protesters have complained that grand juries are unlikely to indict police officers.

At least one member of Clark's family asked Tuesday for the protests to end. But demonstrators said they



JEFF WHEELER/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/TNS  
**Demonstrators warm themselves at a fire in the street in front of the Minneapolis Police 4th Precinct headquarters early Tuesday morning in Minneapolis.**

would not be intimidated or "bow to fear."

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack, but several racially disparaging comments had been posted on social media in recent days. One video showed a white man brandishing a gun while claiming to be on his way to the protests. Police issued a warning Friday night, asking demonstrators to be vigilant and report any suspicious behavior to authorities.

The protesters had a safety plan, and security team members had been asking people who looked like troublemakers to leave.

Fourteen people whom protesters believed to be white supremacists were kicked out of the area one night, said Mica Grimm, an organizer of Black Lives Matter Minneapolis. She said they came in with their faces covered and filmed the crowd but would not talk to people. Some made racist comments.

Grimm said protesters had been threatened by one group online and had been working with hackers to figure out the group's plans. On one night, Grimm said, online chatter included a post stating that a pie had been left at the protest site with rat poison.

"We made sure that all the pies were thrown out, and actually other food was thrown out for fear of contamination," she said.

Grimm said concerns were

brought up to police, but protesters felt the threats were not being taken seriously.

The situation escalated Monday night when members of the protesters' security team approached three men and one woman who were standing under a "Justice-4Jamar" sign and asked what they were doing.

"We're here for Jamar," one said, according to Henry Habu, who had been providing security for the demonstrators.

Habu said he and others tried to escort the four away from the protest and they took off running. He and others said at least three members of the group were wearing masks that covered the lower half of their faces.

Alexander Dewan Apprentice Clark, who said he chased the attackers, said one of the men fell and when Clark helped him up, he felt what he believed to be a bulletproof vest under the man's clothing.

Wronski-Riley, who is also on the security team, said most of the crowd stopped following the men about midway up the street, but a few protesters gave chase. Wronski-Riley and a friend followed to make sure everyone came back safe. After running about another half block, the suspects started shooting.

"It was so busy and chaotic," Wronski-Riley said.

One wounded man had been shot in the back of the leg and was crawling in the

street, Wronski-Riley said. Another, who had been shot in the arm, was yelling that his limb was numb and he needed help.

Some protesters criticized the police response time and said officers arrived in full riot gear. Officers aggressively pushed back on the crowd, Wronski-Riley said, at one point using a chemical irritant to keep people back.

"They can't kill the sense of community that I'm building," Wronski-Riley said. "And they can't stop us from making sure that black lives do matter."

Police did not answer questions about their response to the shootings or about their response to prior reports of suspicious behavior.

Wesley Martin was among those shot. A day later, he was back at the scene, walking with a cane after being hit in the left leg and treated at a hospital.

He said his 19-year-old brother, Tevin, was wounded in the stomach and was in intensive care but was expected to recover.

Asked why he came back after being shot, Martin said: "Bullets aren't going to stop me from supporting what I want to do anyway."

## Man Who Pleaded Guilty Won't Go To Prison

PIERRE (AP) — A 77-year-old South Dakota man who pleaded guilty to a second-degree manslaughter charge stemming from a fatal car crash in May won't go to prison.

The South Dakota Attorney General's Office says Herris Lambley, of Herrick, was granted a suspended imposition of sentence and placed on five years of probation.

Authorities say Lambley was driving a pickup truck when he struck a car at a rural intersection on May 26. Twenty-four-year-old Herrick resident Steven Wheeler was driving the car and died at the scene.

Lambley suffered injuries that the Highway Patrol at the time called serious but not life-threatening.

Lambley on Tuesday was also ordered to complete 100 hours of community service, write an apology letter to Wheeler's family and pay a \$5,000 fine and more than \$17,000 in restitution.

## Man Who Stole Flag Submits Apology

PIERRE (AP) — A former employee in South Dakota's secretary of state's office who admitted to stealing a century-old state flag has submitted a court-ordered apology.

The 26-year-old Garrett Devries addressed the brief letter to the secretary of state, the office's employees and the people of South Dakota. DeVries offers a "sincere apology" and says he understands that his actions caused the office "to devote time and energy to recover the flag."

Devries pleaded guilty to misdemeanor theft and was given a suspended 30-day jail sentence. He was ordered to publicly apologize, pay court costs and \$1,500 toward upkeep of the flag.

The flag that dates to Deadwood's Old West days had been displayed on a stand inside the secretary of state's office through numerous administrations.

Officials noticed it was missing earlier this year and investigators recovered it from Devries Oct. 8.

## Woman Gets 51-65 Years For Assault

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — An Omaha woman has been given 51 to 65 years in prison for kidnapping and savagely attacking a woman over her boyfriend's debt.

The *Omaha World-Herald* reports that 26-year-old Shavontae Green was sentenced Tuesday. She and her boyfriend, Ronald Ford Jr., were convicted for the attack on the 38-year-old woman.

Authorities say Ford was upset because the woman's boyfriend owed Ford money for a laptop computer. Ford and Green went to the boyfriend's house in January but found only the woman there. They beat her, kidnapped her and took her to their home.

Prosecutors say the woman was beaten again, sexually assaulted, burned with a cigarette, whipped with a chain, doused with boiling water and splashed with bleach.

The 33-year-old Ford is scheduled to be sentenced Wednesday.

## Cameras Show Supposedly Armed Men

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus community was alerted to possible danger after security cameras showed what looked like two armed men in a campus parking garage.

But university police say the two turned out to be students playing some sort of game while shooting their airsoft guns.

University police Sgt. Aaron Pembleton said Tuesday that the two were spotted a little after 11 p.m. Monday by dispatchers using the cameras to check an unrelated matter. Students and staffers were warned via texts and emails to stay away from the area while officers checked the garage.

## Vigil Held To Welcome Syrian Refugees To Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A candlelight vigil has been held for Syrian refugees in downtown Lincoln a week after Gov. Pete Ricketts joined other Republican governors expressing concern over federal screening of Syrian refugees who want to enter the United States.

The *Lincoln Journal Star* reports that people, including faith leaders, gathered

Monday at Tower Square to welcome Syrian refugees to Nebraska. The Rev. David Lux of Saint Paul United Methodist Church told those who gathered at the vigil that the city has always welcomed people fleeing violence or persecution. "We are a refuge for people all over the world," Lux said.

The governors cited security concerns in a letter

to President Barack Obama last week following the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris that killed 130 people. The attacks stoked fears that terrorists might use refugees from Syria as a cover to move across borders.

Gov. Ricketts has also urged resettlement organizations not to accept Syrian refugees until federal security procedures are examined.

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