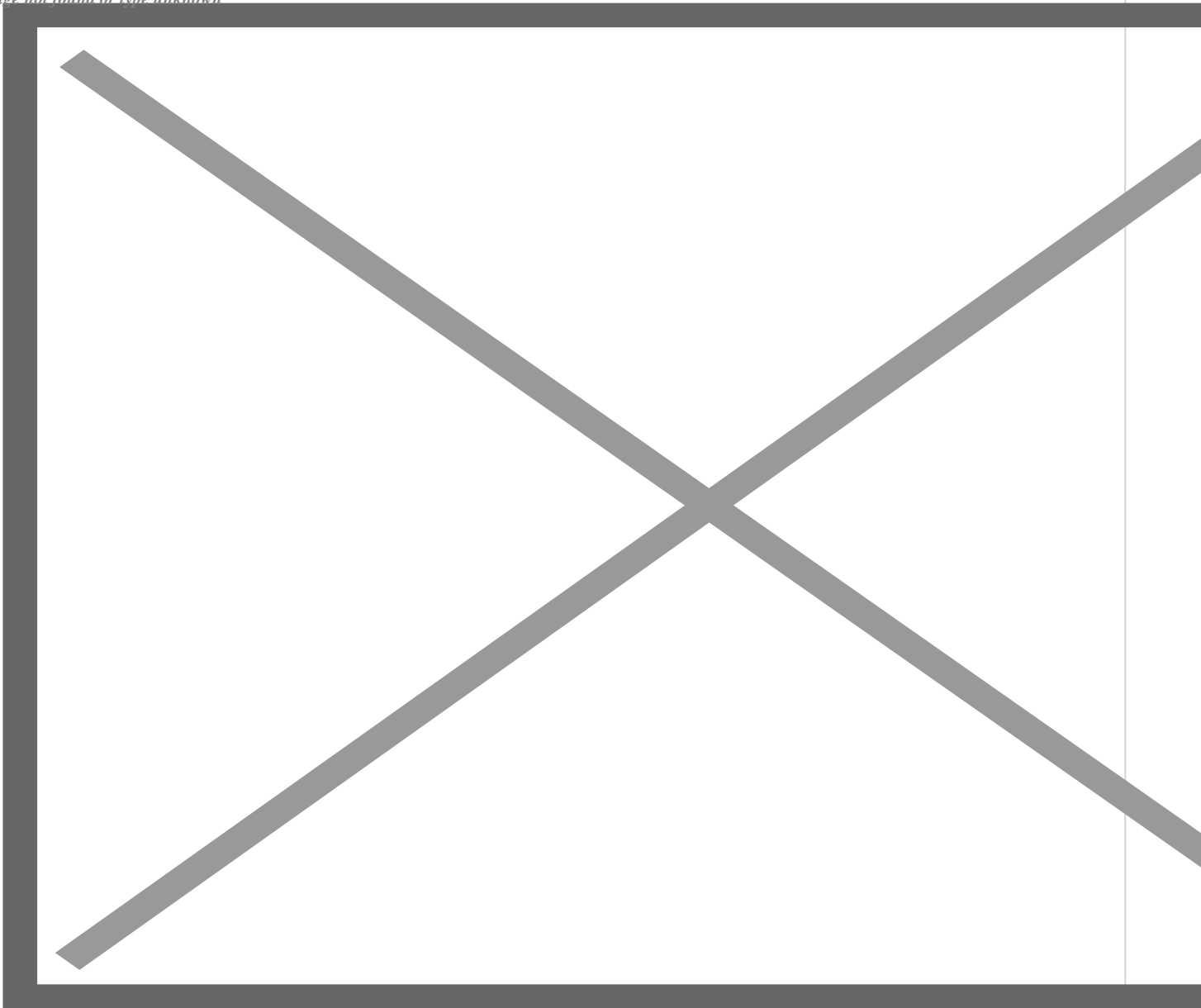# Protests after Minneapolis police shoot 20-year-old Daunte Wright

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Police officers take cover as they clash with protesters in Brooklyn Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota [Kerem Yucel/AFP]

Minneapolis, April 12 (RHC)-- Protests have broken out in the U.S. city of Minneapolis after a policeman fatally shot a young Black man near where George Floyd was killed last year. Hundreds of people, some visibly upset and one carrying a sign demanding "Justice for George Floyd," confronted police in riot gear on Sunday night, hours after the officer shot 20-year-old Daunte Wright in his car in the Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Center.

Brooklyn Center police set off flash bangs and fired tear gas into the crowd of protesters who had gathered outside the police station. National Guard troops were deployed just before midnight, the Star Tribune newspaper reported.

The latest shooting happened in a city already on edge and midway through the trial of the first of four police officers in Floyd's death. The unarmed Black man's killing sparked months of protests in the US against racism and police brutality and attracted international outrage.

Duante's mother, Katie Wright, told a crowd earlier in the day that Wright called her to say he had been pulled over by police. She said she heard officers tell her son to put his phone down, and then one of the officers ended the call.

Soon after, her son's girlfriend told her he had been shot. "All he did was have air fresheners in the car and they told him to get out of the car," Wright said.   "He got out of the car and his girlfriend said they shot him," she said. "He got back in the car and he drove away and crashed and now he's dead on the ground… Nobody will tell us anything. Nobody will talk to us… I said please take my son off the ground."

The Brooklyn Center police, in a statement, said officers pulled over a driver for a traffic violation on Sunday afternoon. When they discovered he had an outstanding warrant, they tried to take him into custody. He got back into his car and one of the officers fired their weapon, striking the driver.

The vehicle travelled several blocks before striking another vehicle, police said, adding both officers' body cameras were activated during the incident. The driver died at the scene, the statement said.

A female passenger in the car suffered "non-life threatening injuries" from the crash and was transported to a local hospital. A woman who lives near the crash scene, Carolyn Hanson, said she saw law enforcement officers pull a man out of a vehicle and perform CPR. A passenger who got out of the car was also covered in blood, Hanson said.

Brooklyn Center is a city with a population of about 30,000 people located on the northwest border of Minneapolis.

By Sunday evening about 100 people had gathered near the scene, according to the Star Tribune.

Public mourners included Wright's family and friends who gathered, wept and consoled each other alongside protesters who carried "Black Lives Matter" flags, jumped atop police cars, confronted officers, and walked peacefully in columns with their hands held up. On one street, "Justice for Daunte Wright" was written in multi-coloured chalk.

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