

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2021

Daunte Wright Should Be Alive Today

South St. Paul - Following the death of 20-year-old Daunte Wright by Brooklyn Center Police, AFSCME Council 5 Executive Director Julie Bleyhl released the following statement:

“We mourn the death of 20-year-old Daunte Wright as a result of the actions of a Brooklyn Center Police officer. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with Daunte’s 2-year old son, family, friends, and community during this time of unspeakable heartbreak. Daunte Wright’s life mattered and he should be alive today. Those who are entrusted with using deadly force must be obligated to exercise de-escalation techniques and always seek to prevent the loss of life. We are committed to reforming our systems that will eliminate racial disparities and uplift the working-class. We must rise up to meet this moment in our country’s history to write our next chapter focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

“Trying to explain this tragedy and countless other deaths of black men and women in America to our children and family members is impossibly difficult and painful, but it is especially agonizing for people of color. To our members of color: We stand with you and are here to listen and act.

“Black men and women live in fear that themselves, their spouses, children, friends or neighbors may be killed when they’re pulled over by the police, stopped on the street or simply walking through their own neighborhoods. We must heed to the cries of black mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters in creating a more just and equitable country that lives up to our shared values and support those who keep our communities safe and connected.”

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