

Minnesota high court tosses out conviction of Minneapolis police officer

BY **MONIQUE BEALS** | THE HILL

(THE HILL) - The Minnesota Supreme Court on Wednesday reversed the third-degree murder conviction of a former Minneapolis police officer.

On July 15, 2017, Mohamed Noor fatally shot Justine Rusczyk Damond, according to NBC News. Damond thought she heard a woman being assaulted and called 911. When officers responded to her call, she allegedly startled them before Noor fired a fatal shot.

The reversal

comes after the high court decided the case did not adequately prove that Noor had acted with a "depraved mind, without regard for human life" that the original conviction would require, according to the case's opinion.

Noor also was convicted of second-degree manslaughter in connection to the incident. That verdict will still stand when the former police officer is re-sentenced, the opinion said.

That sentence will likely be between 41-57

months, a Hennepin County Attorney's Office spokeswoman said to NBC News.

"In sum, our precedent confirms that Noor is correct in arguing that a person does not commit depraved-mind murder when the person's actions are directed at a particular victim," Chief Justice Lorie Gildea wrote in the case's opinion.

Hennepin County Attorney Michael O.



On the night on July 15, 2017, Mohamed Noor fatally shot Justine Rusczyk Damond while he was on duty as a Minneapolis police officer responding to a call.

Freeman voiced dissatisfaction in a statement about the ruling.

"We are disappointed that the Minnesota Supreme Court chose to reverse the

third-degree murder conviction of Mohamed Noor," Freeman's statement said. "However, we respect and acknowledge that the Minnesota Supreme Court is the fi-

nal arbiter in this matter."

In 2019, the city of Minneapolis previously agreed to a \$20 million settlement with the Damond family.

New I-35, Parmer Lane intersection on track to open in early October

By **Benton Graham** | Community Impact Newspaper



Metro Reporter, Austin

(CI) - Drivers traveling through the I-35 and Parmer Lane intersection will need to adjust to driving on the left side of the road as the diverging diamond construction is nearing completion.

The new intersection is on track to open to



The diverging diamond intersection will temporarily switch the lanes when drivers cross I-35 on Parmer Lane, so drivers will be on the left side of the road. (Courtesy Texas Department of Transportation)

traffic in early October, said Brad Wheelis, a public information officer with the Texas Department of Transportation.

The diverging diamond will temporarily switch the lanes when Parmer crosses I-35, so drivers will be on the left side of the road. The design allows for through and left-turning traffic to move through the intersection simultaneously.

The design is not the only one of its kind on I-35: It has already been implemented at I-

35 and RM 1431. TxDOT is also working on a diverging diamond intersection at Williams Drive and I-35, which has an anticipated completion of mid-2023, according to the agency's website.

"After the bridge is in the [diverging diamond intersection] configuration, crews will construct the median island across the bridge; finalize pedestrian elements; install and complete drainage, wastewater and high-mast illumination," Wheelis

said. He added TxDOT will also reconstruct the North Lamar Boulevard and Parmer intersection. That part of the project includes implementing right-turn lanes and dual left-turn lanes from Parmer to North Lamar.

The entire project is expected to be complete in early 2022. It costs \$24.6 million with funding coming from Texas Clear Lanes and the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

HEADS UP!

Hays CISD closes elementary school after COVID-19 outbreak

by: **Russell Falcon & Jala Washington** | KXAN

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HAYS COUNTY, Texas (KXAN) — The Hays County Consolidated Independent School District will temporarily close one of its campuses due to COVID-19 spread.

According to Hays CISD, eight of the 10 district classrooms that are currently under quarantine are housed at Tobias Elementary, triggering the closure until Monday, September 20.

Previously, Hays CISD superintendent Dr. Eric Wright said that while he believes masks should be worn in schools, the district was choosing not to enforce its own mandates, as several Texas districts have done.

"We just don't think we have the authority to enforce if we were to create a mask mandate," Wright said. "If students showed up in our district, and they weren't wearing a mask... we don't think that anyone would come in and actually support that [enforcement]. If we say that there's a mask mandate, I need to make sure that 100% of people are going to wear masks."

Some of Texas' biggest school districts have imposed their own mask mandates, despite a ban on mask mandates in public schools by Gov. Greg Abbott. Austin, Houston, San Antonio and Dallas ISDs all enforced their own mandates.



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