

Jury selection in 3rd week for ex-cop's trial in Floyd death

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI**
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Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Jury selection entered its third week Monday, March 22, for a former Minneapolis police officer charged in George Floyd's death, with at least two more jurors needed ahead of opening statements next week.

Thirteen jurors have been seated for Derek Chauvin's trial on murder and manslaughter charges. The judge has said two more will be seated ahead of opening statements expected March 29. Only 12 will deliberate. The others will be alternates, needed only if some jurors are unable to serve for any reason.

Floyd, who was Black, was declared dead May 25 after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee on his neck for about nine minutes while he was handcuffed and pleading that he couldn't breathe. Floyd's



Court TV via Associates Press, Pool

Defense attorney Eric Nelson, left, and defendant former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin listen as Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill discusses pretrial motions, prior to continuing jury selection, Friday, March 19, 2021, at the Hennepin County Courthouse in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Chauvin is charged in the May 25, 2020, death of George Floyd.

death, captured on a widely seen bystander video, set off weeks of sometimes violent protests across the country and led to a national reckoning on racial justice.

On Friday, Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill declined a defense request

to delay or move Chauvin's trial over concerns that a \$27 million settlement for Floyd's family had tainted the jury pool.

Cahill, who called the timing "unfortunate," said he believed a delay would do nothing to stem the

problem of pretrial publicity, and that there's no place in Minnesota untouched by that publicity.

In another significant ruling Friday, the judge handed the defense a victory by ruling that the jury can hear evidence from

MORE COVERAGE

Find AP's full coverage of the death of George Floyd at apnews.com/hub/death-of-george-floyd.

Floyd's 2019 arrest, but only information possibly pertaining to the cause of his death in 2020. He acknowledged several similarities between the two encounters, including that Floyd swallowed drugs after police confronted him.

The judge previously said the earlier arrest could not be admitted, but he reconsidered after drugs were found in January in a second search of the police SUV that the four officers attempted to put Floyd in last year. The defense argues that Floyd's drug use contributed to his death.

Cahill said he'd allow medical evidence of Floyd's physical reactions, such as his dangerously high blood pressure when he was examined by a paramedic in

2019, and a short clip of an officer's body camera video. He said Floyd's "emotional behavior," such as calling out to his mother, won't be admitted.

The county medical examiner classified Floyd's death as a homicide in an initial summary that said he "had a cardiopulmonary arrest while being restrained by police." Floyd was declared dead at a hospital 2.5 miles from where he was restrained.

The full report said he died of "cardiopulmonary arrest, complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression." A summary report listed fentanyl intoxication and recent methamphetamine use under "other significant conditions" but not under "cause of death."

The 13 jurors seated through Friday are split by race: Seven are white, four are Black and two are multiracial, according to the court.

Bill to aid U.S. publishers vs. Google, Facebook rises again

Microsoft president supports the bill; Google and Facebook stay silent

By **TALI ARBEL**
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON — A congressional effort to bolster U.S. news organizations in negotiations with Big Tech has supporters hoping that third time's the charm.

The bill, the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act, was introduced in March for the third time since 2018. Its odds of passage may have improved in a Democrat-run Congress that's working on overhauling antitrust laws.

Australia and other

countries have started pushing mechanisms to support news publishers against Facebook and Google, which dominate online advertising. Publishers argue that Big Tech squeezes news organizations out of digital ad revenue and exerts undue control over who can see their journalism.

The bill would offer a four-year antitrust exemption to publishers so they can negotiate as a group with "dominant online platforms." Facebook and Google get the majority of online ad dollars in the U.S. The measure aims to give publishers better leverage with the tech companies, while only allowing coordination that benefits the news industry as a whole, amid

a long-running decline in local news.

Rep. David Cicilline, a Rhode Island Democrat and one of the bill's sponsors, said in prepared remarks for a hearing earlier this month that the legislation would provide news publishers an "even playing field" to negotiate deals with major tech platforms. The news industry is struggling with falling revenues, shrinking newsrooms and failing publications — which Cicilline and others call a threat to democracy — while Google and Facebook rack up billions in profits.

"This bill is a life support measure, not the answer for ensuring the long-term health of the news industry," the congressman said.

While the bill has

Republican cosponsors in both the House and Senate, some Republicans in the same hearing expressed reservations. Rep. Jim Jordan, an Ohio Republican, said he worried about giving more power to large media companies that would suppress conservatives' opinions. Republicans often assert without evidence that tech companies censor conservatives and right-wing media.

The News Guild, a union that represents journalists, says the bill would work best with additional provisions to support jobs. It has long objected to media consolidation and criticizes many publishers for impeding unionization and slashing newsroom jobs, particularly at chains

owned by hedge funds and private equity firms.

News Guild president Jon Schless would like the legislation to require publishers to spend 60% of the revenue won from bargaining to hire more journalists and also support small papers and fund start-ups in "news deserts," areas where papers have folded, worried that instead it might be spent on things like dividends, stock buybacks and squeezing out higher profit margins.

Microsoft, whose president testified during the hearing, supports the bill. Google and Facebook on Friday, March 19, declined to comment on the legislation.

In February, however, Facebook took the extraordinary step of banning Aus-

tralian news from its platform to protest a law that would have required it to negotiate with publishers to compensate them for its use of news content. Facebook lifted the ban once the government agreed to modify the law. Microsoft, meanwhile, has teamed up with European publishers to support measures similar to the Australian law in Europe.

Over the past few years, Facebook, Google, Amazon and Apple have all come under increasing scrutiny from Congress and regulators. The Justice Department, Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general are suing the internet giants for a variety of antitrust violations, some of which are related to the woes of publishers.

Miami Beach curfew aims to end spring break partying

Police say they arrested more than 1,000 people, seized about 80 guns

By **KELLI KENNEDY**
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A party-ending curfew imposed after fights, gunfire, property destruction and stampedes broke out among huge crowds of people in Miami Beach could extend through the end of spring break.

Miami Beach commissioners voted unanimously Sunday, March 21, to empower the city manager to extend the curfew in the South Beach entertainment district until at least April 12, shutting down a spring break hot spot in one of the few states fully open during the pandemic.

SWAT teams and law enforcement officers from



Daniel A. Varela/Miami Herald via AP

Crowds gather in the street while a speaker blasts music an hour past curfew in Miami Beach, Florida, on Sunday, March 21, 2021. An 8 p.m. curfew has been extended in Miami Beach after law enforcement worked to contain unruly crowds of spring break tourists.

at least four other agencies sought to contain the raucous crowds, but confrontations continued for days before Miami Beach officials enacted the curfew, which forces Ocean Drive restaurants to stop outdoor seating entirely.

City Manager Raul Aguila said many people from other states were coming in "to engage in

lawlessness and an 'anything goes' party attitude." He said most weren't patronizing the businesses that badly need tourism dollars, and instead merely congregating by the thousands in the street.

Miami Beach Police said more than 1,000 people have been arrested this spring break season, with about 80 guns seized.

Supreme Court could reimpose Boston Marathon bomber's death sentence

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Monday, March 22, it will consider reinstating the death sentence for Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, presenting President Joe Biden with an early test of his opposition to capital punishment.

The justices agreed to hear an appeal filed by the Trump administration, which carried out executions of 13 federal inmates in its final six months in office.

The case won't be heard until the fall, and it's unclear how the

new administration will approach the case. The initial prosecution and decision to seek a death sentence was made by the Obama administration, in which Biden served as vice president. But Biden has pledged to seek an end to the federal death penalty.

In July, the federal appeals court in Boston threw out Tsarnaev's sentence because it said the judge at his trial did not do enough to ensure the jury would not be biased against him.

The Justice Department had moved quickly to appeal, asking the justices to hear and decide the case

by the end of the court's current term, in summer.

Tsarnaev's lawyers acknowledged at the beginning of his trial that he and his older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, set off the two bombs at the marathon finish line in 2013. But they argued that Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is less culpable than his brother, who they said was the mastermind behind the attack.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, died following a gunfight with police and being run over by his brother as he fled.

Police captured a bloodied and wounded Dzhokhar Tsarnaev hours later.

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