

Floyd's Family Takes Seat at Trial

Emotional video, testimony bring many to tears

(AP) — A member of George Floyd's family often occupies a reserved seat in the back corner of the Minneapolis courtroom where former police Officer Derek Chauvin is on trial in Floyd's death. The seat reserved for Chauvin's family goes unclaimed.

Floyd's younger brother Philonise Floyd, of Houston, has attended several days of the trial to bear witness on behalf of his family. He has watched the often-excruciating bystander, police body camera and security videos of his brother's fatal encounter with Chauvin on May 25, and listened to testimony from eyewitnesses and police.

"This is life-changing," Philonise Floyd said during a break in the proceedings. "All this testimony is so hard on everyone."

Chauvin, who is 45 and white, is charged with killing the 46-year-old Black man by pinning his neck for 9 minutes, 29 seconds as Floyd lay face-down in handcuffs. Floyd had been accused of passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a neighbor-



Floyd family attorney Ben Crump (center) joins George Floyd's brothers Philonise (right) and Rodney (left) before the start of the murder trial against former police officer Derick Chauvin to announce a \$27 million civil lawsuit settlement between the Floyd family and the City of Minneapolis. (AP photo)

hood market.

Nobody from Chauvin's family has taken the seat they're entitled to use. Chauvin was recently divorced, and few details have emerged about the rest of his family. Courtroom seating has been strictly limited due to coronavirus concerns.

While admission to the court-

house is strictly limited, civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump—who represents the Floyd family, and the Rev. Al Sharpton were seen at the courthouse Tuesday morning with some members of the Floyd family, waiting for an elevator. Gwen Carr, the mother of the late Eric Garner, was with them. Sharpton, Crump and Carr

held a prayer vigil with members of the family outside the courthouse during the midday break Tuesday.

Philonise Floyd told reporters he's been trying to stop crying and has kept a box of tissues on the floor next to his chair. He said his family members and seemingly everyone he meets in Minneap-

olis can't stop crying, either. But he said he's grateful for the support his family is getting from the community, including the protesters who often gather outside the courthouse.

He was in the courtroom last week as George Floyd's girlfriend,

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The Week in Review

COVID-Infected Inmates Sue

Claiming negligence by not taking proper safety precautions, denying testing and mixing infected inmates and guards, 15 inmates who contracted COVID-19 while at Multnomah County's Inverness Jail, have filed a lawsuit against the county and Sheriff Mike Reese.

Inmate Voting Rights Restored

Washington state lawmakers voted last week to automatically restore voting rights to people who have been released from prison after committing felonies. Supporters called it a matter of racial justice, considering the disproportionate impact of the criminal justice system on people of color.

Mascot Tied to Lynchings

The Portland School Board is taking another look at making an evergreen tree the mascot for Ida B. Wells-Barnett High School over community concerns that the use of a tree for the school's mascot could be associated with the historical use of trees for lynchings. The evergreen tree was intended to be a symbol of life for the former Wilson High.

Gun Violence Response

Concerns about a new plan from the mayor and a group of interfaith

leaders supporting police to seek an additional \$2 million in funding for a uniformed police team charged with curbing a surge in shootings got pushback last week. Portland City Commissioners Carmen Rubio, Dan Ryan and Mingus Mapps indicated they want to bolster community-based groups focused on gun violence instead.

'No' to Camping in Parks

Portland park sites and other land zoned as open space are off the table for temporary, organized shelter camps after an outcry was heard to the proposal last week. The Portland City Council made the unanimous decision while considering amendments to its Shelter to Housing Continuum Project.

Eviction Moratorium Extended

The Biden administration Monday moved to extend a federal moratorium on evictions of tenants who have fallen behind on rent during the coronavirus pandemic. The moratorium is now extended through the end of June.

Capitol Police Sue Trump

Two Capitol Police officers filed a civil suit last week against former President Donald Trump for physical and emotional injuries they suffered as a result of the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. The officers quote Trump's words leading up to the riot, including Trump's baseless claims of voter fraud and that Democrats were "trying to steal" the election.