

The Columbus Dispatch

62 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

January 8, 2022

Dear Judges:

Just after the verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial was read, police were called to a Columbus home where a fight had broken out.

Just a minute after the first officer arrived at the scene, a 16-year-old girl was dead, shot by the officer. Ma'Khia Bryant was the ninth Columbus resident shot by police in 2021. Community members protested. Police pleaded for calm, while community activists demanded accountability.

A team of Dispatch journalists covered the shooting from the scene, talking to police and protesters and acquiring 911 calls and video from neighbors. Other reporters worked on broader stories about who Ma'Khia Bryant was, how the foster system failed her, and whether there was a way to de-escalate the fight before the shooting.

The coverage added context and details to the controversial story, something residents needed as they followed the story. I'm proud of this staff for looking at the shooting with a critical but objective eye.

Thank you for considering this entry in best spot news.

Sincerely,
Kelly Lecker
Interim Editor