

MAY 02 2019

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Mohamed Mohamed Noor,

Defendant.

**ORDER SEALING PROSPECTIVE
JUROR LIST, JUROR PROFILES,
JUROR QUESTIONNAIRES,
TRANSCRIPT OF *IN CAMERA*
JUROR *VOIR DIRE*, AND
ORIGINAL VERDICT FORMS**

Court File No. 27-CR-18-6859

The above-referenced case came on for hearing before the undersigned Judge of District Court on April 30, 2019, in Courtroom 1953 of the Hennepin County Government Center, 300 South 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55487, on the verdicts of the jury.

Amy Sweasy, Esq., and Patrick Lofton, Esq., appeared on behalf of the State of Minnesota. Thomas Plunkett, Esq., and Peter Wold, Esq., appeared with and on behalf of Defendant Mohamed Noor.

The Court has issued an Order for Confidential Jury in this case dated April 1, 2019. In that Order, issued pursuant to Minnesota Rule of Criminal Procedure 26.02, subdivision 2(2), the Court sealed prospective and selected jurors' names, addresses, and other identifying information in the court record to protect the jurors from unwanted publicity or harassment that may have endangered their impartiality. The Court intended the restriction on access to last as long as there was a likelihood of publication of juror information. Rule 26.02 subdivision 2(2) provides that the Court may restrict access to juror information as long as necessary to protect the jurors. *See also State v. Bowles*, 530 N.W.2d 521, 532 (Minn. 1995) (recognizing jurors' fears of harassment after trial as a basis for anonymity).

At this time immediately following the verdicts, given that every detail obtained about the jurors in *voir dire* or in open court has been published, that community groups are organizing protests, and that the Court is receiving correspondence from the public with opinions about the case, the evidence, and the outcomes, the Court finds that there is a likelihood of the publication of identifying juror information and of unwanted publicity and harassment resulting therefrom.

Therefore, the prospective juror list, juror profiles, juror questionnaires, the transcript of *in camera* juror *voir dire*, and original verdict forms containing the signature of the foreperson shall be filed under seal and remain sealed in the court record until further order of the Court. A copy of the verdict forms with the foreperson's signature redacted shall be publicly accessible in the court file.

At the time the above-referenced documents are unsealed, they shall be made accessible in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Minnesota district courts. Pursuant to Minnesota General Rules of Practice 807(e) and 814(a), the prospective juror list and juror profiles shall be made available to the public upon specific requests to the court, supported by affidavit setting forth the reasons for the request.

The jurors in this case were asked to maintain their confidentiality until the end of trial. At this time, they are free to speak with whomever they choose about the case and to identify themselves should they so choose.

The Court will revisit the issue of juror confidentiality in ninety days.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT:



Kathryn L. Quaintance
Judge, Fourth Judicial District

Date: 5/2/19