

# OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Juvenile guilty in teen's shooting death**

A 16-year-old boy who shot and killed a 15-year-old girl in Columbia Heights in March pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter Wednesday, June 22, in Anoka County Juvenile Court.

Damico Jamal-Toyko High, now 17, admitted that he picked up a handgun and, without checking to see if the gun was loaded, pulled the trigger while pointing the gun at the victim. The gunshot killed the victim.

The case will be deemed an extended jurisdiction juvenile prosecution (EJJ), meaning High will receive a sentence in juvenile court, along with an adult prison sentence. He will serve the prison sentence if he does not fulfill the juvenile sentence. The juvenile sentence calls for High to spend time in a juvenile correctional facility.

Juvenile sentences work differently than those of adults. In EJJ cases, the final decision as to sentence disposition is made by probation and court officials in the county of residence. In this instance, High will be transferred to Hennepin County, which will determine how long he will stay in a juvenile correctional facility, and the length and conditions of probation based on recommendations from Anoka County. He will not have to serve a 57-month adult prison sentence as long as High meets the requirements of the Hennepin County juvenile disposition.

The Anoka County Attorney's Office charged High by juvenile delinquency petition and sought to have him certified as an adult. The certification request will be rescinded if and when Hennepin County approves the plea agreement and issues the disposition.

Because High was charged with a felony and was at least 16 years old at the time of the alleged crime, the juvenile delinquency petition is deemed public data. That document is not included with this release. If you would like a copy, please contact Elizabeth Mohr at the Anoka County Attorney's Office.

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