

## NEWS

# Statement on Mass Shooting in Buffalo, NY



Brothers,

Anger and disbelief are the first two words and emotions that come to mind as I watch countless hours of coverage about the cowardly acts of one domestic terrorist that have forever changed the lives of 10 families and their community, our community.

It's clear that racism and the rise of white supremacy groups in America will continue to threaten the way of life for all of us whose skin is not a certain color. When will the hatred

stop? When will the fear of punishment begin to deter individuals from committing such heinous acts?

Unfortunately, I do not have the answers to any of these questions, but I am hopeful that by working together to understand the value of our differences in this dynamic world, instead of allowing those differences to build barriers and manifest hatred, we will one day be able to eclipse hate with love. Love for our family, friends, neighbors, and strangers alike.

Therefore, our programming in our communities around education, economic empowerment, social justice engagement and mentoring is more important now than ever before. The work of Phi Beta Sigma men must be felt in every corner of our neighborhoods around the world.

But, today, in the aftermath of a different reality, we stand in solidarity with our Brothers in Buffalo, New York as they support the victims and families impacted by the mass shooting at Tops Friendly Market on May 14, 2022. We pray for strength and healing for each person who has been impacted by these horrible events in Buffalo and countless cities around the nation.

I've instructed our International Social Action Director, Bro. Malwan Johnson to work with our Social Ac-

tion leaders throughout the fraternity to help craft an engagement strategy that all chapters and brothers will be able to get behind as we continue to deal with the rise in violent crimes and gun violence in our communities.

Brothers, let us stand unified and pray for peace for the families and the victims. We must BELIEVE in our collective power and be the change agents for our communities deserve.

In Truth and Service,

Chris V. Rey, J.D.  
International President

## Finding the Light to Drive Out Hate - Commentary

Statement by Dr. Gail C. Christopher, Executive Director of National Collaborative for Health Equity, on Buffalo Shootings

WASHINGTON - "Hate always terrorizes. That's the intention. As an African American woman who came of age during the Civil Rights era, I know at heart how hate works to harm some and paralyze or, at least, to immobilize others. But movement is life. It's certainly the way forward if Democracy is to survive and its aspirational tenets of equality are to be actualized. This is why we must see hateful acts, and their progenitors, hate speech on all forms of media, as threats to our collective health, well-being and future existence.

We must mobilize as a nation, come together to deny the expression of hate permission to continue expanding, unchecked on multiple airways across this nation. Sociologists probe whether the rises in hate speech can be directly linked to racial violence. This is not about free speech,

it's about freedom to live healthily and permission for democracy to thrive. Communities in Buffalo, El Paso, Atlanta, Charleston and Charlottesville know this in their bones. Their minds and hearts are forever imprinted with the devastating and horrific memories of violence and lives lost simply because of their racial or other identities.

Racial hatred denies our right to exist, to live in loving relationship with ourselves and with one another. No entity, human or corporate, can be allowed to have or to proliferate that misguided right. Ending racism, in all its forms, is a public health and a national imperative. Governmental action to regulate social media through new mechanisms and to enforce existing laws is urgently needed, now.

But more is required

The 21st century has ushered in new understanding about how molecular and cellular biology works to sustain life. Chemicals find receptors on our cell membranes before they

can enter and catalyze action. No receptor, no effect. We need a parallel in our body politic. For example, the life-saving drug Narcan, prevents and reverses opioid overdoses by competing at the nine opioid cellular receptor sites. What are the interventions that can knock out receptors for hate? Available research tells us that authentic human engagements and positive meaningful interactions with perceived "others" can reduce fears and biases and, help counter receptivity to hateful narratives and rhetoric. We must mobilize, with clear intention, so hate can no longer find receptors in our hearts and body politic. This work will also help generate the public and political will needed to expedite essential regulatory and enforcement actions that are urgently required. As Dr. King prophetically told us decades ago, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."



Dr. Gail C. Christopher

## Black Designer Debuts Commemorative Coin to Celebrate Juneteenth National Independence Day

Nationwide — Meet Beverly David Robinson, the founder and CEO of Juneteenth Unlimited, who has designed a commemorative coin that celebrates Juneteenth, a federal holiday inspired by the African Diaspora, Black American history, and the fight for freedom. Made of one troy ounce of .999 fine silver, this inspirational coin is for anyone who wants a valuable keepsake to memorialize this significant new holiday.

June 19, 1865, marks the date that the last known African-American slaves were freed. As a result, it's become one of the most important days in African-American history. This commemorative coin both honors and remembers the African-American forefathers and mothers who suffered throughout the history of the trans-At-



lantic slavery system.

What makes it a fascinating coin is the use of a Swahili word – Nahuona: "I see you." Careful thought and consideration were put into the use of this



word. The concept may present one of the best ways to acknowledge empathy and compassion for our ancestors and for all humanity. Juneteenth Unlimited is also delighted to use a West

African Kente textile art design. The reverse side has an image of Frederick Douglass, a former slave who became a famed abolitionist.

In addition to the holiday marking the last known day slaves were freed, Juneteenth serves to remind people that humans have an incredible capacity to heal and emerge from their darkest moments with hope and purpose. This coin represents how people had to rise from the ashes and acquire freedom.

Robinson comments, "Precious metals have proven to have financial stability throughout history. This coin will hold its value for present and future generations. It's time to rejoice and celebrate history with one of these cherished coins."

## Maternity Photo Contest Highlights the Beauty of Black Motherhood



Los Angeles, CA — Successful Parenting Media/ Successful Black Parenting announces the launch of their first maternity photo contest which started on April 8th and will continue throughout the year with

weekly featured photos. Each month, one featured photo is chosen to win a \$100 gift card from Buy Buy Baby, a retail store that specializes in clothing and equipment for infants and young children. Weekly featured photos have

the chance of being on Successful Black Parenting magazine's digital cover.

"If you have an aesthetically gorgeous photo, submit it," said Janice Robinson-Celeste, CEO of Successful Black Parenting magazine. "I want to showcase the beauty of being a mother and our community has some of the most creative and artistic maternity photoshoots I've ever seen. Let us put you on our cover and you can win some prizes while you're at it." The contest is open to participants ages 18-years and older in the continental United States. The rules and conditions are available on their website.

There are three steps to enter. Participants submit photos by 1) posting and tagging their photos on Instagram with the hashtag, #SBPmagazine2022

and by tagging them @successfulblackparenting. Contestants must also 2) follow @SuccessfulBlackParenting on Instagram and TikTok, 3) tag a friend and comment on the contest's post. Unless contestants are winners, their entry is valid indefinitely. There is no need to resubmit photos.

Successful Black Parenting is the first national print magazine for parents of Black children. The print publication was originally launched in 1993 and then relaunched online in 2016. Over the years, Successful Black Parenting magazine has become a respected and trusted source of information for the Black family.

For more information, go to the official website at SuccessfulBlackParenting.com



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