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## **It's Time to End Gun Deaths in Minnesota: Statement on St. Paul's October 10, 2021 Mass Shooting**

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The Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC) is appalled and saddened to learn about yet another mass shooting in our community. A shooting in St. Paul on the morning of Sunday, October 10, 2021, killed St. Paul woman, Marquisha Wiley, 27, and injured 14 bystanders. Ms. Wiley worked as veterinary technician, was a music lover, and a basketball player. "...every time she walked into the room she was a bright light, and she got that out of everybody - just a smile and everything felt alright," stated her friend, Thomas Alvarado.

Two men have been charged in connection with the shootings.

MAC extends our deepest condolences to the families and friends of Ms. Wiley and to all those injured in this senseless act of violence.

Gun violence is a growing public health crisis in America and in Minnesota. Guns are associated with far too many tragic deaths in our state. MAC has advocated for gun safety, including background checks of prospective gun buyers, safe gun storage, laws implementing extreme risk protective orders, and increased funding for research into the psychological and societal factors that lead to gun violence.

MAC calls on the Minnesota Legislature to step up now and pass legislation to help stem gun violence, including promoting the safe usage and storage of firearms. MAC also calls on local leaders to do more to ensure the safety of every member of our community.

All Minnesotans, especially people of color, should feel and be safe in their own communities. Gun violence is an epidemic, and the time is now for our legislators to implement common sense regulations to keep ALL communities safe. Enough is enough. It's time to end gun deaths in Minnesota.

### ***About the Minnesota Alliance on Crime***

*The Minnesota Alliance on Crime connects systems, service providers, and victims to advance the response for victims of all crime. MAC is a membership coalition of more than 90 crime victim service providers in Minnesota, including prosecution-based victim/witness programs, community programs, law enforcement agencies, and individuals committed to supporting crime victims. We support our membership through training, technical assistance, resources, public policy and legislative initiatives, and networking opportunities.*