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Minnesota Alliance on Crime Statement on the Buffalo, NY Mass Shooting and Hate Crime

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC) is appalled and saddened to learn about yet another mass shooting in our country. A white, 18-year-old gunman allegedly carried out a racist attack at a supermarket in Buffalo, N.Y., on Saturday, killing 10 people and injuring three others, according to authorities. Almost all of the victims were Black. The suspect has been charged with first-degree murder. If convicted, he would face a maximum sentence of life without parole.

Officials are investigating the mass shooting as a racially motivated hate crime. Separately, the FBI is investigating the shooting as both a hate crime and racially motivated violent extremism. MAC extends our deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims 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.

This particular mass shooting highlights the ongoing problem in communities around the country and here in Minnesota, of racial violence and injustice. MAC's core values oppose the use of all forms of violence and affirm the basic human right of every person to live without fear or the threat of victimization throughout the course of one's life. We seek a criminal justice system that is fair and accessible to all crime victims, and where meaningful rights for crime victims are routinely honored. We stand in solidarity with efforts around the world to end all forms of discrimination, exploitation, victimization, and violence. We recognize that forms of oppression based on race, gender/gender identity, class, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, disability, age, religion and sexual orientation create a climate of supremacy and ownership that facilitates the use of ongoing violence and victimization. We believe in the strength of diversity, embrace the differences among ourselves and within our communities, and promote the development of leadership in all communities.

Once again, MAC calls on the Minnesota leaders to condemn race-based violence and take-action to root out institutional racism and oppression that is very much alive in state and national criminal/legal systems. We ask local and national leaders to speak out against the insidious and false "Replacement Theory" that is flaming the fire of racism and inciting horrific acts of hate crime. **All Minnesotans, especially people of color, should feel and be safe in their own communities.** We call on the Minnesota Legislature to not only condemn racism and the violence that stems from it, but to use their power to vote for measures to hold individuals and system accountable.

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.