

BY: Senator KENNEDY

EXPRESSING sincerest, heartfelt condolences to the Buffalo, New York, community in the wake of the devastating tragedy which took place at a Tops grocery store on Jefferson Avenue, and applauding all those who acted immediately and heroically in the face of danger

WHEREAS, The very principles of American freedom, and the safety and security of every American at home and abroad were challenged by the unspeakable atrocities committed in the East Side of Buffalo, during a sunny afternoon on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at a Tops grocery store located on historic Jefferson Ave; and

WHEREAS, During this senseless act of violence, 10 innocent people were killed: Roberta A. Drury, 32 years-old; Geraldine Talley, 62 years-old; Celestine Chaney, 65 years-old; Kathrine Massey, 72 years-old; Pearl Young, 77 years-old; Ruth Whitfield, 85 years-old; Margus D. Morrison, 52 years-old; Andre Mackneil, 53 years-old; retired Buffalo police officer, Aaron Salter, 55 years-old; and Heyward Patterson, 67 years-old; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Jennifer Warrington, 50 years-old; Zaire Goodman, 20 years-old; and Christopher Braden, 55 years-old, were wounded, however are expected to survive; and

WHEREAS, For all New Yorkers, the images of this horrific domestic act of terrorism rekindles heartbreaking memories and causes us to pause and reflect on our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, The very heart and soul of America has once more been shaken to its core and this tragedy stands as a reminder that such senseless acts of violence will not destroy the values that make America great; and

WHEREAS, The power of human compassion and the strength and spirit of the American people were revealed in Buffalo as we learned of the immediate and heroic outpouring of service and concern for the victims of this act of terrorism and in its aftermath; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted first responders, including police officers, Erie County sheriff's deputies, and FBI agents, as well as paramedics and firefighters, who inspire us all by carrying out their sworn duties with great courage and bravery; and

WHEREAS, The combined and coordinated efforts of these individuals and their swift response are a testament to the spirit of unity and fellowship in the face of adversity which characterizes the best of America; and

WHEREAS, The people of the State of New York stand steadfast in their solidarity with Buffalo, New York, all of whom were victimized by the city's worst mass shooting on Saturday, May 14, 2022; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to express sincerest, heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families and to applaud all those who acted immediately and heroically in the face of danger, and to extend to the people of Buffalo the sincere best wishes and heartfelt prayers of all New Yorkers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Byron Brown, Mayor, Buffalo, New York.