



*Sunday, June 12, 2016*  
*News Release from the Mayor's Office*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This morning, we awoke to the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. History, perpetrated just 90 minutes away in Orlando, by someone who lived in our community.

As we process and respond to this great tragedy, I would ask that we send our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers to the families whose lives have been forever changed by an act of great hate and violence. We join them in mourning their lost loved ones and sending wishes for a speedy recovery to the survivors.

To the City of Orlando and Orange County, we stand with you in solidarity and are here as your brothers and sisters to respond to this emergency, to help you pick up what pieces we can, to take the actions we should, and to grieve what we must.

To our community, many have expressed great concern over whether the shooter resides in Fort Pierce or Port St. Lucie, and I say that it doesn't matter because this terrible act could have happened and been hatched anywhere in our nation. It is not an Orlando, Port St. Lucie, Fort Pierce, or Florida event. As a nation, we must be ever vigilant and know that this type of heinous act, whether it be driven by hate of those different in religion or orientation, can happen anywhere. At the same time, we cannot allow our vigilance and willingness to act on reasonable suspicion to ever cross the line into the territory of blind fear and discrimination. For those with hate in their hearts, such a turn would be an even greater win than pulling the trigger on innocents. We face a moment which requires our careful thought, consideration, and action. As we have throughout our nation's history, when times are at their worst, we must be at our best.

Port St. Lucie is the safest large city in Florida and our dedicated police officers are assisting the FBI in its investigation of the shooter. If the roots of the shooter's hate extend into our community, we will not rest until they are completely ripped out and justice is served on behalf of the lost, the survivors, their families, our community and our way of life.

Official updates on the investigation will be provided by the FBI. The City will provide additional statements as warranted.

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