



A Statement on the Buffalo Murders

June 1, 2022. The UNO School of Public Administration strongly condemns ongoing hate crimes and violence against Black communities and want to express our solidarity and support for our Black/African American students and colleagues. The mass shooting that occurred in Buffalo, New York, at Tops Friendly Market, we now know was methodically planned, clearly motivated by hate, and known by others believing in illogical maxims underpinned by racist rhetoric. We condemn the insidious racism that fueled this hate and subsequent senseless violence. We also note this horrific incident took place almost exactly two years after the murder of George Floyd.

As practitioners, students, and scholars of public administration, the onus of equity reform in all contexts of the word, especially racial equity, is on US. We call upon all of us to renew our active commitment to justice, inclusion, equity, and community in the face of acts of individual, institutional, and systemic discrimination, and racism. We pledge to continue our community engagement, research and teaching on how to bring public servants, clients, and citizens together in the ongoing work of democracy in a diverse society. We will do this work regardless of the difficulty and opposition we encounter, and vow to pursue to redress this issue even after we make mistakes.

We encourage members of our community to reach out to mental health professionals who can help manage the trauma of violence against Black, Brown, Asian, and Indigenous friends, family, colleagues, and ourselves. Please take advantage of the UNO campus [Counseling and Psychology Services \(CAPS\)](#) or one of the many excellent nonprofit and government community behavioral health service providers such as [Brighter Horizons](#), [Creative Counseling and Studio](#), [Mental Wellness Counseling](#), [Omaha Integrative Care](#), and [One World](#). We also encourage community members to find solidarity networks with communities who share and validate your experiences. Some BIPOC-led solidarity groups in the Omaha area include [Culxr House](#), [I Be Black Girl](#), [Movement in Omaha for Racial Equity](#) (MORE), and the [Omaha Community Council for Racial Justice and Reconciliation](#).

This statement also serves as a call-to-action to our UNO community of faculty, staff, and leadership, as we specifically encourage them to thoughtfully consider how we might make use of our positions and roles to help facilitate safe academic and social spaces for our students and Black/African American colleagues, as well as continue to seek out and improve academic and administrative policies that may undermine equity and inclusion. Please let your SPA community know if you need additional support and join us in condemning racist violence and continuing the advancement of racial and social equity wherever and however it presents, especially within our UNO community.