

## A message from Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Director John Spears

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In the wake of the mass shooting in Buffalo on Saturday, our first concern is for the families and friends of those who were killed or injured, and we grieve with them. This was a crime that targeted not only thirteen individuals; it was a hate crime that targeted the entire Black community. White supremacy and discrimination have no place in our community or our country. The Buffalo & Erie County Library stands firmly against the hatred and intolerance that led to the gunman's actions. Racism—in any form—must not be tolerated.

As a public library system serving the City of Buffalo and all of Erie County, our communities are the center of all we do. Our communities are in pain from this terrible act of violence, and we know the hurt that we feel has been felt by too many communities before us. This cycle of violence must stop, and we pledge to combat the apathy and racism that leads to the recurrence of these horrific acts wherever and whenever we can. We exist to serve the entire community, and in doing so we aim to ensure that the entire community feels welcome and included within our library doors and throughout Erie County.

John Spears

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Below are links to community resources:

**If you are in need of immediate help or community resources, call 211.**

FeedMore WNY <https://tinyurl.com/2xxba4dx>

Library System website, mental health resources

<https://www.buffalolib.org/subject-guides/health/mental-health>

StepOut Buffalo Guide to Community Kitchens & Food Pantries

<https://tinyurl.com/y94ykpnm>

WIVB TV Channel 4 – helping those affected by the mass shooting: <https://tinyurl.com/msuaf36t>

WGRZ TV Channel 2 – helping the community: <https://tinyurl.com/36udezbr>

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