



STATE OF NEW YORK  
**UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM**  
**EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

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**LAWRENCE K. MARKS**  
Chief Administrative Judge

**NORMAN ST. GEORGE**  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge  
Courts Outside New York City

May 16, 2022

**KEVIN M. CARTER**  
District Administrative Judge  
Eighth Judicial District

**ANDREW B. ISENBERG, ESQ.**  
District Executive

Good morning,

On May 14, 2022, an individual entered Tops Friendly Markets ("Tops"), located at 1275 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo, New York at around 2:30P.M. This individual is said to have traveled 199 miles, over a 3 hour-30-minute drive, to Buffalo for the sole purpose of shooting and killing innocent human beings who were working and patronizing Tops.

Prior to entering Tops and immediately after entering the supermarket, this individual opened fire using an assault rifle, killing ten people and wounding three others. The individual was charged with murder and was arraigned during the evening hours on May 14<sup>th</sup>. This individual is allegedly racist and antisemitic. His manifesto subscribes to "white replacement" as he allegedly blames the Jews for bringing non-Caucasians to the United States. There are so many communities in pain from this, and perhaps none more so than our African American Community.

Our challenge is to endeavor towards compassion, caring, kindness, hope, healing, and humility that quite frankly is lacking in so many. Arguably the most important lesson in the Scripture is to love your neighbor as you love yourself. We have a community of the love that has been shattered, and we must commit ourselves to rebuild the bonds of love and hope with one another. I pray you all will be circumspect in your treatment of others and resolute in your efforts to end this meaningless divide.

On behalf of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, I extend our deepest condolences to those of you who may have family members and/or friends who lost their lives during this irreparable, irrational, and incomprehensible act of evil. Our prayers go out to each of you.

This is a cataclysm that will likely impact so many for some time. If you believe you need or wish to speak with someone who can assist you through this time of despair, I implore you to reach out to UCS Work Life Assistance by calling the 24/7 helpline at (800) 833-8707, and for judges, Daniel Lukasik, Esq., NYS Judicial Wellness Coordinator, 92 Franklin Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Part 1, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202, (716) 783-4701.

**Hon. Kevin M. Carter**  
Administrative Judge Eighth Judicial District