

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 96

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2019, four people were killed in the Greenville neighborhood of Jersey City in a horrific act of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Detective Seals was a 40-year-old husband and father of five who had served with the Jersey City Police Department for 15 years and was a member of the Department's Cease Fire Unit, where he was part of a statewide anti-violence program aimed at limiting gun crimes through community outreach and the removal of illegal weapons from our streets; and

WHEREAS, Mindy Ferencz was a 33-year-old wife, mother of three, and co-owner of the Jersey Kosher Supermarket, and was known, along with her husband, as pioneers for relocating from Williamsburg, Brooklyn, to Jersey City and opening their market to support the growing Jewish community in Greenville; and

WHEREAS, Moshe Deutsch was a 24-year-old rabbinical student from Williamsburg, Brooklyn, who actively gave back to his community, in part by helping his father organize a food drive that fed approximately 2,000 local families during Passover over the last several years; and

WHEREAS, Douglas Miguel Rodriguez was a 49-year-old husband and father of one who recently emigrated from Ecuador and had been working at the Jersey City Kosher Supermarket for more than a year; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement's brave and immediate actions prevented further harm to innocent men, women, and children in the area; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is one of the most diverse states in the nation and is strengthened by its diversity; and

WHEREAS, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal has stated that the evidence at this time suggests this was an act of hate and that this incident is being investigated as a potential act of domestic terror; and

WHEREAS, we unequivocally condemn any act of violence that sows seeds of division in our communities in the strongest possible terms; and

WHEREAS, we must make every effort to ensure that those who seek to do irreparable harm cannot readily access firearms and weapons of war; and

WHEREAS, this Administration is committed not only to mourning the victims and their families, but also to doing everything we can to end the epidemic of gun violence that plagues far too many of our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of the State of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities during appropriate hours from Friday, December 13, 2019, through Friday, December 20, 2019, in recognition and mourning of the passing of the victims in Jersey City.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this,
12th day of December,
Two Thousand and Nineteen, and
of the Independence of the
United States, the Two Hundred
and Forty-Fourth.

[seal]

/S/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/S/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor