

City Council statement on shooting that took place Aug. 28 in Bend

September 7, 2022

More than a week ago our community experienced terror and grief when a gunman opened fire at a local grocery store and took the lives of two of our community members and then himself.

We mourn for the victims, Glenn Edward Bennett and Donald Ray Surrett, Jr. We are heartbroken for their families and friends. We are grateful for Donald Surrett's actions that horrific night to try to disarm the shooter, potentially saving many lives at the expense of his own.

We hold in our thoughts everyone who was there and experienced the trauma of a shooting in a place where people should feel safe getting their groceries.

We are thankful for the exceptionally swift response from the Bend Police Department, who were in the building within just a couple of minutes, running toward the shooting. Their actions were courageous. We appreciate the first responders from Bend Fire & Rescue who work to save lives in the worst imaginable moments. We thank every local law enforcement agency in the area for their collaboration.

Our community has had its sense of safety shattered by this act of violence. Emotional distress and anxiety after an incident like this is normal. If you are struggling for any reason, please reach out to Deschutes County Behavioral Health. Google Deschutes County Health Services, Behavioral Health, or call 541-322-7500. Deschutes County also offers crisis support services.

Please support one another as we all process the wide range of emotions that we are all feeling right now, it may take time to heal. It's certainly normal that it will take a lot of time. For many of us this trauma will be with us for the rest of our lives.

We are devastated that Bend has become the latest community to experience a such gun violence, aimed at causing fear.

As leaders at the local level, we pledge to do everything in our power to advocate for the policies we need as a state and a country to curb gun violence and end the epidemic of mass shootings that plagues our community. Everyone deserves to feel safe from gun violence in our community.



