

# Lake County Sheriff's Office

Christopher Covelli, Lieutenant  
Public Information Officer  
Desk: 847.377.4180  
Fax: 847.984.5738  
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25 S. Martin Luther King Jr., Ave  
Waukegan, Illinois 60087

[www.lakecountyil.gov/sheriff](http://www.lakecountyil.gov/sheriff)

**John D. Idleburg**  
Sheriff

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Statement from Sheriff John D. Idleburg on Recent Mass Shootings

“Eight gunned down and killed in Atlanta, Georgia last week. Ten gunned down and killed in Boulder, Colorado, including a police officer yesterday. These tragedies are gut-wrenching, heartbreaking, and quite frankly, scary. These shootings are happening in communities just like ours here. No community is immune to gun violence.

Brave and heroic Boulder Police Officer Eric Talley heard the call come in, raced to the scene, was reportedly first there, and ran to stop the gunman. Tragically, he was shot and killed a short time after his arrival. He gave his life in an effort to protect his community – the true definition of a hero.

Brave and heroic police officers across our nation put their lives on the line each and every day to keep our communities safe. The overwhelming majority of our nation’s police officers have joined the law-enforcement profession not for fame, not for glory, not for money, not for extravagant benefits, but because they felt the calling to serve. It takes nothing less than bravery for someone to be willing to run toward the sound of gunfire as everyone else is running away, to stop an active threat.

We have outstanding law-enforcement officers, corrections personnel, and civilian staff here at the Lake County Sheriff’s Office and across the county at our municipal governments. As mentioned, they will not hesitate to give everything to keep our community safe.

All of this said, we must do more to keep firearms out of the hands of those who will use them to commit murder and crime. I call on our legislators, and my office is more than willing to assist in any way we can, to increase services for those suffering mental illness and create legislation which keeps guns out of the hands out of violent individuals, while still respecting the Second Amendment.

Tensions seem to be higher than ever before. Even if you do not see eye-to-eye on every issue with the people you

know (or interact with on social media), let us just remember, we need to all come together for our future generations. Patience and kindness for one another is so imperative to success in our community. As society continues to be traumatized by this senseless violence, let us come together and work to end it. Let us all stand together and condemn the senseless violence, senseless hate, and disrespect to one another that continues to run rampant. As one of my deputies said in a social media post he shared, "...everyone is going through A LOT [right now], be kind to one another and listen, it's free and it don't cost you anything to be kind and show love!"

The men and women of the Lake County Sheriff's Office pray for everyone impacted by the senseless mass violence we saw in Atlanta and Boulder, as well as those impacted by the random acts of violence occurring elsewhere. Take care of each other and remember - we should always strive to be our brother's and sister's keepers."

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