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## A SOULFUL HEART MEMORIALIZING GEORGE FLOYD, JR.

## A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

May 16, 2022 Sarita Smiley <u>info@ASoulfulHeart.org</u> 1.516.788.2898

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Like millions of Americans, *A Soulful Heart* was horrified and saddened by the traumatic, targeted murder of Black Americans in Buffalo, NY. We extend our deepest sympathies to the victims' families and friends for their horrific loss.

The victims were gunned down by a hate-filled, self-proclaimed White Supremacist; an 18year-old shooter who was armed with a semi-automatic assault rifle that was modified after its purchase to have more rounds, which enabled more killing power. He went hunting for Black people in his pursuit of hate, with the intent to incite a race war.

Unfortunately, our organization is not surprised at this racist massacre. The teen shooter, who regarded prior racially-motivated mass murderers in America as his "heroes," is one of a growing throng of extremists that the FBI calls "the most volatile, complex and dynamic threat environment" in America today. According to the FBI, domestic extremists are primarily those who adhere and promote a White supremacy agenda. They have killed more people in the United States than any other group since 9/11 – including international terrorists.

The hunting and killing of Black people must stop. As well, the far-right media needs to stop promoting false ideas of "race replacement theory," which validates and emboldens those already predisposed to extreme racist views. Hate speech cannot be tolerated or regarded as a protected class of speech, when it leads to violence beyond words.

As part of its mission, *A Soulful Heart* seeks to educate and bring together diverse communities, and to promote understanding. But the first step to fixing this intricate web of racial hate is to acknowledge it exists. You cannot fix what you do not admit is broken. It is everyone's problem.

Please join *A Soulful Heart* on May 24, 2022 at the Town Hall Theatre in NYC for its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual George Floyd Memorial Concert, as we seek to raise funds that will help provide the necessary monies to further our organization's goals to make a difference and to stem the nationwide tide of racial slaughter, such as the Buffalo Massacre.

For more information, including ticket sales for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual George Floyd Memorial Concert and/or to make a donation to help further our organization's goals, please visit: www.ASoulfulHeart.org.