



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boston Marathon survivor Erika Brannock supports NCCSAFE Survivor Strong Virtual 5K
After four years of holding in-person races, NCCSafe will hold a fifth annual 5K race virtually to include people from all around the country and the world

BOSTON, MA- Starting April 20, 2021 through April 27, 2021, the National Center for Citizen Safety (NCCSafe) will host its first ever Survivor Strong Virtual 5K Road Race, open to members all across the country and the globe to promote awareness for survivors of domestic terrorism.

Over the past 5 years, our non-virtual Survivor Strong 5K has brought hundreds of supporters and survivors together to raise awareness regarding acts of domestic terrorism, how to act in emergency situations, how to process and understand these incidents, and also brought us together. One of the most important aspects of our 5K is building a sense of community and support to those who have dealt with tragedies directly and indirectly.

Maryland native Erika Brannock is a survivor of the Boston Marathon Bombing of 2013. She is an educator, author, and activist, who does work to support others who have been affected by acts of domestic terrorism. In 2018, Erika released her first children's book *The Journey of NEM*, which is all about being comfortable with being different. Erika is working on a follow-up to her first book, which will be a continuation of NEM's journey. Erika has been involved with NCCSafe for years now, since she developed a relationship with founder Lois Blevins. Erika is also a spokesperson for NCCSafe's Survivor Strong 5K.

Erika sat down with the team at NCCSafe on the eighth anniversary of the Boston Marathon Bombing to talk about her experience with the organization. "I've met so many survivors through this organization," says Erika. "It's good to bring awareness to people that haven't been through a traumatic experience and to bring other survivors together, so that there is someone who knows what they are going through."

Erika emphasized the importance of a support network and social connectivity, explaining how she has found that in helping others one can help themselves. Organizations such as the National Center for Citizen Safety work to empower survivors and to raise their voices, shedding light on their experiences to protect citizens from domestic terrorism.

About NCCSafe's mission, Erika says "The message is so relevant now. Unfortunately, we have to learn about this stuff and people have to be prepared. What we need is a group that is so dedicated, like NCCSafe."

NCCSafe will raise awareness this year through its virtual Survivor Strong 5K. Registration runs from April 20-April 27 and is open to anyone. All those interested may sign up through [this link](#).

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[About NCCSAFE](#)

National Center for Citizen Safety (NCCSAFE) was formed as a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2014 with a mission to provide active assailant training, educational defense tools and safety awareness for preparedness of domestic terrorism within the United States. NCCSAFE has conducted training programs for various organizations and held Survivor Strong 5Ks successfully. For more information, please visit <https://nccsafe.org/>