Press Conference
Mass Shooting Event on November 1, 2026
November 2, 2026

Good afternoon, I am Jamal Simington (Spell), the Chief of Police for the City of Bloomington. Thank you for joining us this afternoon for this press conference regarding the very unfortunate early Sunday morning shooting which occurred in a common back yard of 109 E. Division Street during a Halloween Party, which was located in a residential area which mainly consisted of rental properties. As of this morning, we have identified 9 total victims.

First, I would like to share with the victims, their families, and friends that they have the thoughts and prayers of the members of the Bloomington Police Department. I spent over an hour with the parents of [19-year-old Giana Dettloff, of Carol Stream, Illinois, who tragically lost her life during this event.] According to her parents [Dawn and George,] this was their only daughter. She was described as full of life, a sweet girl with a very bright future, a cheerleader ~~who attended North Central College~~ who was visiting one of her best friends at Illinois

Wesleyan University for Halloween. I witnessed the heartbreak of her parents and other family members when they learned that their daughter ~~Giana~~ had been murdered. I felt their pain.

Secondly, my prayers are with this community and others throughout America which experienced significant gun violence over the weekend. These events devastate families, harm communities, and have no place in a civilized society.

On Sunday morning at approximately 1:21 a.m., the Bloomington Police Department responded to Division and East Streets after Bloomington Police Officer Brent, who was on a call for service in the area heard approximately 10 shots being fired. When Officer Brent arrived within a minute, he was encountered by a male who had sustained a gun shot wound to his arm. As he proceeded to the back yards of residences, he came upon three additional victims and began triaging their injuries. As additional officers arrived from BPD and the Illinois State Police, officers immediately started emergency medical care of each of the most severely injured victims while waiting for paramedics to arrive.

Emergency medical care consisted of CPR, applying a tourniquet, and addressing bleeding wounds. The first patient was transported by ambulance at 1:41 and the last at 1:47 a.m. These life-saving measures were commendable, and I am grateful for the immediate action of our dispatchers, officers and a Trooper from the Illinois State Police. It saddens me that we could not save Giana's life.

The remaining victims ranged in age from 16-22, high school through college students, 7 female victims and 2 males, of those 6 were Caucasian and 3 African Americans. I'll provide the following:

1. 19-year-old IWU student from Plano, Illinois. He sustained a right forearm wound and is in stable condition
2. 18-year-old IWU student from Carol Stream, Illinois. She sustained a leg injury and her status improved from critical to stable condition
3. 19-year-old ISU student suffered a gunshot wound to an ankle and she is in stable condition.

4. 19-year-old Quincy University student from Woodridge, Illinois. She suffered chest, arm, and abdomen injuries. Her medical status improved from critical to stable.
5. 22-year-old male of Bloomington, Illinois.
6. 18-year-old female Glenbard North High School Student from Carol Stream, Illinois.
7. 16-year-old female Bloomington High School student with a graze wound to an extremity, this individual was treated and released.
8. This morning we learned of another victim, a 19 y/o female from Hoffman Estates who was treated and released. She is an ISU student.

Halloween is a holiday designated for fun, celebration, and socializing. Extra staffing was added for Saturday night to increase police visibility, address drinking and driving violations, and ensure peaceful celebrations throughout the community. 20 officers were assigned to patrol that evening. As for the Halloween Party, BPD officers, including myself,

patrolled the area of the party throughout the night. This party was noticeably peaceful, jovial, and there were no disturbances witnessed or reported prior to the shooting. There was no indication or warning that the shooting would occur.

At least 30 patrol officers, Illinois State Troopers, and McLean County Sheriff Deputies responded to the shooting immediately. We were provided information about the shooters, who have been generally described as male blacks. The investigation commenced immediately and our detectives have been working diligently to solve this case. Numerous interviews, reviews of an enormous amount of investigative material, and crime scene processes have occurred. Detectives worked throughout the early morning of Sunday and through Sunday evening. BPD is working with the McLean County State's Attorney Erika Reynolds and her staff and the McLean County Coroner, Dr. Kathy Yoder. More investigative tasks are currently in process, and we are working with the Illinois State Police, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms, and Explosives, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to assist in this effort.

A message for our community. Our strength is in our connection with one another. We are very proud of our relationship with our community members and stakeholders. We do have a safe community. We are one of the safest communities in the state. We do not have anyone in custody yet. But, we will identify the person or persons responsible for this tragedy. This community has had low violent crime rates, reduced gun crimes, and is among the safest communities in Illinois. If there is any hesitation to come forward and share information with us, please know the shooting is our greatest concern and focus. We need you to assist us in solving this case. The BPD will continue to give a diligent effort to solve this shooting incident. I implore those with information to contact Detective Pedro Diaz or anyone at BPD to share anything you may have. You may consider it small or insignificant, but we consider all information valuable and it could lead to an arrest and prosecution.

Let's join together passionately and solve this as a community. Now we will have Dr. Kathy Yoder, the MCC for comments.