



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Jerry L. Demings, Orange County

From: Mayor Buddy Dyer, City of Orlando

Date: Monday, March 10, 2025

Subject: Pulse Memorial

It is hard to believe nearly nine years have passed since our community experienced what was at the time our country's worst mass shooting, when 49 angels were taken at the Pulse nightclub. After the tragedy, our community committed to supporting the victims' families and the survivors on their healing journey.

Almost immediately, the City of Orlando and Orange County partnered to meet the needs of the victims, establishing the Family Assistance Center then transitioning to the Orlando United Assistance Center at the County's facility on Michigan Street to our ongoing financial support of the Orlando United Resiliency Center.

An important part of the healing process is a permanent memorial honoring the 49 victims. This is why in October 2023, the City of Orlando purchased the site of the Pulse nightclub after the OnePulse Foundation was unable to move forward with a memorial at that location and ultimately dissolved.

We determined the best path forward toward the creation of a permanent memorial was to engage a third-party facilitator and form a committee comprised of victims' families, survivors and others with expertise in design, arts and architecture. After receiving more than 150 applications from those interested in serving on the Pulse Memorial Advisory Committee, 18 people were selected. The Pulse Memorial Advisory Committee held its first meeting in July 2024. Following a series of public meetings, outreach to victims' families and survivors and working with design consultants, the committee created a conceptual design for the Pulse Memorial that was presented to the Orlando City Council in February. On March 3, 2025, the city issued an RFP for a design-build contractor for the Pulse Memorial, this included a proposed timeline of selecting the firm this summer with construction commencing the summer of 2026 and completion occurring the second half of 2027.

To complete the Pulse Memorial, the city has committed \$7.5 million for the design and construction, this is in addition to the funding allocated for the purchase of the Pulse site and the property directly west of Pulse that was previously owned by the OnePulse Foundation. We believe that to construct a meaningful yet, fiscally-responsible memorial the total cost for design and construction is \$12 million.

The city has established the Orlando United Pulse Memorial Fund, a project within the city's existing Strengthen Orlando 501c3, to support the construction and operations of the Pulse Memorial. The city has committed to continuing the CommUnity 5K Rainbow Run with proceeds benefiting the memorial and ongoing memorial operations. Additionally, we are pursuing financial contributions from the private sector. Unfortunately, many in our local community have given previously through either the OneOrlando Fund, which was established to go directly to the victims' families and



survivors, or the OnePulse Foundation without any return of a memorial, which makes it more challenging for the city to raise significant private funding for the memorial.

As the County has played a pivotal role in the response to the Pulse tragedy and following up on our meeting, we humbly request your continued financial support of \$5 million toward the design and construction of the Pulse Memorial. Since the tragedy, the city and county have continuously partnered to support the victims' families and survivors and helped build community resilience. We hope that the County will continue that spirit of partnership as we as we work to realize an overdue memorial that properly honors the 49.

cc: Orange County Commissioners
Byron Brooks, County Administrator, Orange County
Roseann Harrington, Chief of Staff to Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings
City of Orlando Commissioners
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Heather Fagan, Chief of Staff to Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer