

'We all bleed the same color'

LI voices on the tragedies



NEWSDAY / ALEANDRA VILLA

"The reality is that we're at a crossroads as a national community in making decisions about our historic injustices. We have to come to grips with the pain that has gone on for too long. The fact that violence has been part of that history is not an excuse for violence to be the answer. But a real and meaningful dialogue must take place to avoid escalation."

— Frederick K. Brewington,
Hempstead attorney



DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

"The tension and frustration is a bomb ready to go off. This is a very obvious issue, and as a mother you just pray. ... The police are so trigger-happy — quick to pull their guns out. I told my son not to even go out anymore."

— Deborah Kirnon, 50,
of Central Islip,
community activist



NEWSDAY / JOHN ASBURY

"No matter what color you are, there should be the same rights for everybody. We all bleed the same color. We have nothing against police. It's a few corrupt officers who are the problem. What happened in Dallas shouldn't have happened. It was taken the wrong way, and no one should ever turn to violence."

— Teresa Gonzalez, 30,
of Roosevelt,
human rights activist



NEWSDAY / JOHN ASBURY

"This is in solidarity for the innocent lives lost to police brutality. This is not about being anti-police. We want this to stop and find solutions. We want an open discussion with police to see changes happen."

— Iverne Rolle, 22,
of Hempstead, who helped
organize a Black Lives Matter
rally yesterday in
Eisenhower Park



DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

"Police officers need more training in de-escalating these situations. There needs to be better communication. I know all officers aren't out there to do wrong... but there are differences. Whites and blacks don't really know each other. We say we are accepting of different cultures, but we really aren't."

— Anthony Everett, 51,
of Central Islip, who
attended a community
youth expo yesterday



HOWARD SCHNAPP

"The demonization of police was fueled by the Ferguson shooting and continued in New York City with the mayor displaying a disdain for the police after the Eric Garner case. Protesters were allowed to chant 'Kill the police.' Shortly after those chants were allowed, officers [Wenjian] Liu and [Rafael] Ramos were assassinated by a lunatic who made his way up from Baltimore. ... The leadership in this country, which starts with the president, let the hate spread and fester without strongly supporting the police."

— James Carver, president,
Nassau County Police
Benevolent Association



DANIELLE FINKELSTEIN

"Obviously, there are no words that could describe the senselessness of five police officers being assassinated in cold blood and seven others being shot. The work that police officers do across the nation needs to be respected and supported ... until the facts are revealed to determine the true nature of the events. To see the atrocities that took place, and seem to be growing in numbers, is very upsetting and disgraceful."

— David Gjodesen, 42,
of Massapequa, retired
Baltimore police officer



SCOT MARIO

"We find all of these tragedies absolutely horrific. ... Our perspective is the way to affect change in a way that is going to protect both our community members as well as our police officers is through legislation, policy and voting. I am the daughter of a police officer, and I also have African-American sons and a grandson. At the end of the day, we have to work together to ensure that the police officers and all children, including people of color, come home at night."

— Tracey Edwards, NAACP
Long Island regional director



"When things like this happen, we just really need to pray and ask God for guidance. ... We need to pray for the families of those officers that were gunned down. We need to pray for the families of those two young black men that were killed. Within our diverse backgrounds, we have to find a commonality, learn to embrace our differences. Healing takes time. We pray that God allows us time to heal as a nation."

— The Rev. Eric C. Mallette,
Greater Second Baptist
Church of Freeport



STEVE POST

"Our department is deeply committed to working with those in our community who are concerned with how police interact with minorities. ... Make no mistake about it, the heinous and barbaric attack in Dallas is not representative of any movement, community or protest in this country. Here in Suffolk County, we have invested substantial resources in a true community policing model, and while there is always more work to be done, the results of our efforts have created strong community relations with the residents we are tasked to protect and serve."

— Suffolk Police
Commissioner Timothy Sini