



**Jo M. Broden**  
4th District Council Member

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MAMAS AGAINST VIOLENCE MARK NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS**

**South Bend, IN (SEPTEMBER 22, 2016)** — On Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2 p.m., Mamas Against Violence will host a press conference at the Jon Hunt Plaza (211 N. Michigan St.) in downtown South Bend near the Morris Civic Performing Arts Center. In 2007, Congress designated September 25<sup>th</sup> as the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims. September 25<sup>th</sup> is an important day for families to come together and share the memories of those they have lost and never want to forget.

In conjunction with a dynamic coalition of civic, grassroots, and faith-based groups across the country, survivors and supporters will come together in a number of simultaneous press conferences in cities experiencing high numbers of violent deaths to send a shared message of unity, hope and resolve.

“It is time to do more than just remember our loved ones,” said Bobbie Woods, one of the Founders and President of Mamas Against Violence. Statistics show that Homicide is the leading cause of death among African American males ages 14-34 in cities across this country.

“Homicide is a national public health crisis. We must invest in public health approaches that prevent other mothers from going through what I went through and so many families that are experiencing the tragedy of losing a loved one to violence,” said Woods. “This is a call to lawmakers to invest in public health approaches to reduce gun violence and homicide in America. If not now, when?”

Local press conference speakers will consist of the following:

- Gladys Muhammad, South Bend Heritage Foundation
- Bobbie Woods, Founder & President of Mamas Against Violence
- Representative of Mayor’s Office
- Keith D. Witherspoon, Pastor of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church SB
- Councilwoman Jo Broden, District 4
- Lynn Coleman, candidate for U.S. Congress
- Mrs. Victoria Jackson, mother of murder victim
- Ms. Precious Jackson
- Preacher Elder Brown, One Lord One Spirit Outreach Ministries
- Councilwoman Regina Williams-Preston, District 2
- Councilman At-Large John Voorde

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