



## OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

March 24, 2021

Once again, America mourns. In less than a week's time, two mass shootings claimed the lives of 18 innocent people—eight in Atlanta on March 16 and 10 more in Boulder on March 22. Both are horrific examples of [gun violence](#) that is responsible for as many as 15,000 gun-related killings [per year](#) in this country.

These random, high-profile mass shootings hold our society hostage and draw immediate attention to the overall gun violence epidemic in this country. But when will more stringent standards and realistic guns laws be enacted to stem this violence? We call on our federal government leaders to introduce, pass and enable enforcement of legislation that will finally end senseless gun violence in our communities.

In Atlanta, authorities suspect anti-Asian hatred and bigotry towards women fueled the murderous actions, while the suspect's motive in the Boulder killings remains under investigation. We stand in [solidarity with our Asian-Pacific Islander community](#), and with all victims of racially inspired violence or any form of gun violence, and we stand strong alongside the residents of Boulder.

Let us take a moment of somber reflection and empathy for the victims, their families and friends of these shooting tragedies.

It is also important for you to know that the District remains vigilant on keeping its students, faculty and staff safe as a top priority. The District is currently undergoing a thorough and independent needs assessment that will help form the basis for addressing our campus safety and security needs in 2022 and beyond. This is especially important as we move forward in the months ahead with more on-campus, in-person activities in the recovery phases from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and please be safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francisco C. Rodriguez'.

Francisco C. Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
Chancellor  
Los Angeles Community College District