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**Media Inquiries:** Nicole Margaretten, Communications Manager  
[nmargaretten@tanenbaum.org](mailto:nmargaretten@tanenbaum.org), 212-967-7707 x132  
Laura Kandle, Executive Office Coordinator  
[Lkandle@tanenbaum.org](mailto:Lkandle@tanenbaum.org), 212-967-7707 x131

***Tanenbaum CEO, Joyce Dubensky is available to speak with the press.***

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**For Immediate Release**

## **Tanenbaum Condemns Deadly Terrorist Attack at Pulse Nightclub**

**New York, NY, June 12, 2016:** At Tanenbaum we are horrified and compelled to speak out, about the pain and anguish inflicted by today's terrorist attack at Pulse nightclub. As the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, at least 50 people are now dead and 53 injured from an attack that occurred at Pulse, a gay club in Orlando during Pride month.

Moments before the shooting, the assailant, Omar Saddiqui Mateen, reportedly called 911 and [pledged allegiance to ISIS](#). Mateen had twice been a person of interest to the FBI, a case against him was opened and later closed.

"Sunday's massacre at Pulse is clearly an act of terrorism, fueled by unimaginable hatred," stated Tanenbaum CEO Joyce Dubensky. "Not only do we stand in solidarity with the people of Orlando but also with the people of the LGBTQ community across the nation, who are being targeted by violence."

Dubensky continued. "In these challenging times, it's easy to fall back on stereotypes. To take emerging data about the shooter, who pledged allegiance to ISIS, and ascribe his motives to all people whose names are like his. But that would be wrong. As Americans, it's our responsibility to make sure that we do **not** conflate Islam and followers of that tradition with Mateen's horrific actions."

Pulse was founded by Barbara Poma in memory of her brother John who died from HIV/AIDS. Pulse is more than a nightclub. It hosts educational events and is a center for promoting LGBTQ rights. Prior to the shooting at Pulse, the deadliest shootings on U.S. soil were at Virginia Tech (2007) and Sandy Hook Elementary School (2012).

Tanenbaum is a secular, nonsectarian nonprofit that provides pragmatic strategies for combating religious hate, including the hatred that drives terrorists. "We realize," Dubensky said, "that Tanenbaum alone can't

prevent attacks like the one we just experienced. But we do help to stop prejudice, hatred and alienation that too often result in bullying, harassment and violence.”

Dubensky continued, “We are at a critical moment in our history. The choice is ours. We must not allow terrorism and hatred to destroy our communities. We are great because of our shared humanity and great diversity. The massacre at Pulse is an attack against all of us, but we won’t give into the goals of terrorists – to weaken society by instilling fear that translates into distrust of our neighbors. The time to stand up against hate, together, is now.”

*Tanenbaum systematically dismantles religious prejudice, hatred and violence and simultaneously promotes justice and respect for people of all religious beliefs. As a secular and non-sectarian non-profit, Tanenbaum tackles religious bullying of students, harassment in workplaces and disparate health treatment for people based on their beliefs and works to promote religious peacebuilders who help counter extremism and violence in armed conflicts. More information about Tanenbaum’s offerings can be found here: <https://tanenbaum.org/>*

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