



## FIRE DEPARTMENT • CITY OF NEW YORK

Department Order No. 37

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### 2.1.1

### MESSAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE FDNY

On Tuesday morning, innocent New Yorkers riding the subway were attacked in a senseless act of violence. There were 10 patients with gunshot wounds, many more suffering from smoke inhalation, and countless others who were fleeing, scared for their lives. Once again, it was FDNY members who immediately answered those calls for help.

The first arriving units responded to a call for an odor of smoke. Very quickly, they became aware this was a far more sinister act – a shooting incident involving a detonated smoke device inside the transit system. This was no routine call. It was a mass casualty incident across a large area of Brooklyn, taking place inside two subway stations and playing out on the street level as well. This was one of the worst-case scenarios our members train for, and hope will never come.

You went into harm's way without hesitation and operated despite great personal risk. You thoroughly searched the station, train cars, and tunnels for victims. You stopped the bleeding and provided expert medical care to critically injured patients, removed them from danger, and transported them safely to the hospital. You remained calm, maintained operational discipline, and worked closely with law enforcement. You bravely restored order during chaos. The coordination between our Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics, Dispatchers, Fire Marshals, and Chiefs was extraordinary. Our Department's response ensured the safety and survival of New Yorkers riding the train that day. Your quick and decisive actions saved lives.

Over the last two decades, our Department has dedicated ourselves to extensive training for these horrific scenarios in the hope they would never occur. Preparing for the worst and focusing on training are part of the bedrock of this Department. Once more, the FDNY's unwavering vigilance and commitment to that training was visible for the world to see.

Every member of this Department should be proud of how we responded. Remain vigilant, trust in your training, support each other, and above all, stay safe.

By Order of: **Laura Kavanagh**, Acting *Fire Commissioner*  
**John J. Hodgens**, Acting *Chief of Department*