

*Binghamton, NY* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), who represents the City of Binghamton in the U.S. House of Representatives, released the following statement regarding today's tragic shooting at the American Civic Association in Binghamton.

"First and foremost, my thoughts and prayers are with the victims of today's tragic shooting at the American Civic Association as well as their families and the entire Binghamton community. This is a day we will never forget.

"Our nation prides itself on being a land that is welcoming to people from around the world so the fact that this tragedy occurred at the very place where immigrants turn to for help and guidance in their new country is even more upsetting. America is the land of the free and the home of the brave and I'm confident that the acts of kindness, compassion, and brotherhood being exhibited by the people of Binghamton and all Americans are demonstrating to the world the true nature of the American spirit.

"I want to express my deep respect and appreciation to the people of Binghamton who I'm very proud to represent. I want to let them know that we will do whatever we can to provide the federal resources needed to help deal with this situation. My office is prepared to coordinate the delivery of whatever personal and direct assistance victims, their families, and the community at large may need.

"I also want to convey my deep gratitude to the members of the Binghamton Police Department, the New York State Police, and federal law enforcement officials for the way they stepped into this very difficult situation and did everything they could to end the standoff. Many lives were lost today, but many more could have been lost were it not for the brave actions of our law enforcement officials. They deserve our highest level of respect."