



**For Immediate Release**

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**Heartbroken at the killing of Jordan Neely**

**New York, NY, May 4, 2023** — We at The Bowery Mission are heartbroken by the killing of Jordan Neely. Incidents like this show the dire need for more mental health awareness and training, so that all New Yorkers are equipped to respond to their neighbors in crisis with understanding, sensitivity, and compassion.

We've recently seen a decline in empathy for people experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges, and this week we are all seeing the grim results of that lack of empathy.

The overwhelming majority of people experiencing severe mental health crises on our streets are not aggressive. In fact, they are more vulnerable to violence against them.

Whenever we see someone in distress, we must always consider the impact trauma may have had on their ability to regulate emotions and behaviors. This neighbor is worthy of our compassion, not judgment, and certainly not violence. Learn more about [trauma-informed care](#).

New Yorkers often see people in very vulnerable circumstances and conditions of mental well-being, yet history also tells us that grave mistakes can be made if action is taken without proper assessment, dignity, and advocacy around the vulnerable individual.

New Yorkers must come together to devote more resources not only to helping people in distress, but also spread awareness on mental health and homelessness. We critically need expanded outreach by mental health professionals, who have the ability to assess situations and provide appropriate care for individuals in need.

We hope that this sad incident will be a wakeup call for us all as New Yorkers to see humanity in our neighbors and to advocate for those who live on the margins of our city.

**James Winans**

**President and CEO, The Bowery Mission**

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## **About The Bowery Mission**

The Bowery Mission has served New Yorkers experiencing homelessness and hunger since the 1870s. Last year, The Bowery Mission provided more than 255,000 hot meals, 54,000 nights of shelter, 20,000 articles of clothing, and 30,000 emergency showers. Each meal and every service is an invitation to our Residential and Community Programs that help clients make progress toward a transformed life of faith, community, sobriety, sustainable income and independent living. To empower children to thrive and succeed, The Bowery Mission also offers year-round opportunities for enrichment through Mont Lawn City Camp, culminating in summer camp for hundreds of children in the Poconos Region of Pennsylvania. To learn more, visit [www.bowery.org](http://www.bowery.org).