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June 2, 2023

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**“We Grieve for the Victims of the Shooting”: Temple University Hospital Caregivers Speak Out About the Drive-By Shooting Outside Their ER Wednesday Night and Their Efforts to Ensure Safety for Patients, Visitors, and Staff**

**Philadelphia** – Late Wednesday night, three people were shot on the sidewalk of Germantown Avenue, outside of the Emergency Room of Temple University Hospital in a driveby shooting. Forty shots were fired. A number of them hit the hospital building.

“As employees and caregivers who work at Temple Hospital, we grieve for the victims of the shooting and their family members,” says ICU Mary Adamson, RN, president of the Temple University Hospital Nurses Association (TUHNA). “We want patients and family members to come here and be safe. And we want to be safe ourselves.”

Temple’s frontline caregivers have been working with the hospital to develop policies and practices to keep everyone safe, prevent incidents of violence when they can, and respond quickly and effectively when incidents happen. In contract negotiations last fall, the 2,250 members of TUHNA and Temple Allied Professionals (TAP) reached an agreement with the hospital on improvements to security, including installing weapons detectors at all main entrances.

The caregivers held an emergency meeting with the hospital yesterday to discuss the incident from Wednesday night, and made recommendations about additional security measures that they believe are necessary, given this and other recent incidents. One of the critical things that did not happen Wednesday night, that should have, was immediate notification of staff that a shooting had occurred and instructions on what to do. The hospital agreed to implement a mass communication system for future situations.

“We understand that violence is a larger issue that affects the city as a whole,” says Carlos Aviles, a certified pharmacy technician and president of TAP. “Even though we are a hospital and should be a ‘safe space’ within the city, we are not immune from the violence around us. But Wednesday night’s shooting yet again signals that there is more that can and should be done within the city as a whole – and that there is more that can and should be done within the hospital.”

“At the state level, we are working on legislation – the Health Facility Employee Violence Prevention Act – that will ensure that violence prevention plans, created with direct input from staff, exist at all PA hospitals,” says Adamson. “We will continue to work with city, state, and hospital leadership to make sure that we can make our hospitals, and all PA hospitals, safe for everyone – patients, visitors, and staff.”

*The Temple University Hospital Nurses Association and Temple Allied Professionals are affiliates of PASNAP, the Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals, which represents 10,000 frontline nurses and healthcare professionals across Pennsylvania.*