



Together Highland Park Unidos Releases Final Protocol for Fund Distribution and Publishes Claim Form

Bruce Boyd and Eric Kessler Named Fund Administrators

HIGHLAND PARK, Ill., August 18, 2022: The community committee, *Together Highland Park Unidos*, established by the Highland Park Community Foundation to oversee the distribution process for donations made to the July 4th Highland Park Shooting Response Fund, has released the final protocol, which will guide the distribution of the Fund, made claim forms available to victims, and named two individuals to be Administrators of the Fund.

The publication of the Committee's Draft Protocol on July 27, 2022, opened a listening period designed to give victims and the public an opportunity to share their input. Four meetings were held with victims, and comments from the public were accepted until August 11, 2022, at 5:00 PM. The Committee took all feedback into consideration before drafting the Final Protocol, published August 17, 2022. With the Final Protocol, the Committee published the Claim Form that must be completed in order for an individual who was physically injured at the 4th of July Parade to receive a distribution from the Fund.

The Final Protocol and Claim Form can be downloaded from a website the Committee developed specifically for the Fund, www.july4fund.org. Copies of the Final Protocol and Claim Form are available at the Highland Park and Highwood Public Libraries, Family Service of Lake County, and North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic. A Claim Form may also be requested by emailing info@July4Fund.org or calling (773) 733-0650. The Claim Form, available in English and Spanish, includes instructions and documentation requirements. All Claim Forms must be submitted by September 7, 2022.

The Committee also announced that Bruce Boyd and Eric Kessler, principals at Arabella Advisors, one of the country's leading philanthropy consulting firms, have been named volunteer Administrators of the Fund. Together they will execute the Final Protocol and distribution model developed by the Committee, which includes meeting with victims, reviewing all claims, and submitting payment determinations to the Committee.

Boyd, a long-time resident of Highland Park, and Kessler, a Highland Park native, have extensive experience with grant management. Arabella Advisors, where Bruce and Eric are principals, provides strategy and operations support to America's largest and most impactful philanthropists and foundations.

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“We have been involved in disaster-related philanthropy for nearly two decades, and have helped communities in recovery around the world,” said Boyd. “Never could we have imagined a tragedy like this touching our hometown. It is an honor to be able to volunteer our service to assist the victims of this tragedy.”

“The appointment of our Administrators was done with careful thought and consideration,” said Betsy Brint, member of *Together Highland Park Unidos*. “We are fortunate to have Bruce and Eric working together on behalf of our community. Their background, experience with disaster related grant making, familiarity with our community, and Spanish language skills will ensure that the Funds are distributed according to the Protocol outlined by the Committee. This is difficult work, and we appreciate the time and commitment that they have made to this process.”

All claimants will have the opportunity to meet with the Administrators to review and clarify claim information. The Committee anticipates all funds will be distributed in October. After that, a Final Fund Report will be issued and a third-party audit of the Fund will be conducted and made public.

The July 4 Response Fund continues to be open for donations by individuals and families, private foundations, businesses, and corporations, as well as groups organizing fundraising efforts. 100% of all donations will be distributed to victims or the organizations that support them. Contact Executive Director Terri Olian at 847-433-4100 or terri@hpcf.org with questions.

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