

Proclamation Declaring a Local Disaster For Highland Park Fourth of July Deadly Shooting Event

WHEREAS, at approximately 10:15 a.m., on July 4, 2022, a gunman opened fire on an Independence Day parade in Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois, killing seven people, wounding at least 30 people, and causing hundreds to flee in terror; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 law enforcement officers ran toward the gunshots, protecting and helping people to safety, and immediately began to search for the suspected shooter; and

WHEREAS, after a coordinated effort by the Highland Park Police Department, Lake County Sheriff's Office, police departments from numerous surrounding communities, Illinois State Police and federal law enforcement, police apprehended a person of interest in the evening on July 4, 2022, and the mass shooting remains under investigation; and

WHEREAS, the families of the seven murder victims are devastated by loss and over three dozen individuals are struggling to overcome terrible injuries; and

WHEREAS, many who attended the parade live in Highland Park and surrounding communities and have been traumatized by the evil that ripped apart a peaceful celebration; and

WHEREAS, efforts to recover from this mass murder are ongoing, and the healing process for the trauma inflicted by this tragic event will require significant time and resources; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross and the Lake County Health Department have been contacted to help provide mental health counseling and other support for victims, their loved ones, and many who fled the violence at the parade, as well as others who were affected by this violent incident; and

WHEREAS, many other state and local government agencies, volunteer organizations, and community-based organizations stand ready to assist with the recovery and healing processes; and

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing facts, the current circumstances in Lake County, including the loss of life and injury to numerous individuals, constitute a disaster as provided in Section 4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and

WHEREAS, these conditions provide legal justification under Section 11 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act for the issuance of a proclamation of disaster; and

WHEREAS, additional emergency procedures and protocols may need to be implemented to facilitate decision making across the County and allow expedited procurement should it be necessary; and

WHEREAS, the County may require resources and this emergency may exceed the County's available personnel and financial resources, and therefore funding and resources from the State and/or Federal Government may be necessary to mitigate the disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DECLARED, by the Chair of the Lake County Board, pursuant to the Lake County Code of Ordinances Title III § 32.07, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/11, that a local disaster exists within Lake County, Illinois due to a mass murder with numerous injuries on July 4, 2022 at the Independence Day parade in Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER DECLARED, that this declaration of local disaster is in effect for seven days, unless further extended by the Lake County Board.

DATED, at Waukegan, Illinois, on July 8, 2022.

This Proclamation shall be filed with the Clerk of Lake County, Illinois, and shall expire in seven days unless terminated sooner by me, in my capacity as principal executive officer of Lake County, Illinois, or unless extended by a vote of the Lake County Board.



A handwritten signature of Sandy Hart in black ink.

Sandy Hart
County Board Chair