



**Response to the Independence Day Parade Mass Casualty Shooting Event  
Highland Park, Illinois, July 4, 2022**

**Presented to ILCMA, April 12, 2023**



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# Presentation Disclaimer

- **The case remains active and the investigation is ongoing**
- **Videos and photographs are open source materials**
- **Videos may be disturbing for some viewers**

# Preparing for the Parade





# Incident Summary & Parade Route

## TRAGIC 4TH OF JULY PARADE IN CHICAGO

AT LEAST 5 DEAD, AND MORE THAN TWO DOZEN HOSPITALIZED IN MASS SHOOTING IN HIGHLAND PARK

**PARADE WILL END AT 11 AM**

**PARADE STARTED AT 10 AM**

**ABOUT 10:20 AM, CT, A GUNMAN STARTED SHOOTING FROM A ROOFTOP, CAUSING AN STAMPEDE OF PEOPLE TO FLEE**

**CHICAGO**

**SUNSET PARK**

**2ND STREET**

**1ST STREET**

**CENTRAL AVENUE**

**LAUREL AVENUE**

**HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**HIGHLAND PARK CITY HALL**



# Incident Summary (continued)

## Shots Fired 10:14 a.m.



Image taken several hours after shooting



# Incident Summary (continued)

## Shots Fired 10:14 a.m.





# Emergency Dispatch & Emergency Medical Services



- Dispatch received 421 calls related to the incident in the first hour
- Total calls for the day approached 3500
  - Typical calls per day total is 1100
- 24 patients transported in 27 minutes







# Fatalities, Injuries & Victim Impact

## REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF HIGHLAND PARK



Katherine Goldstein



Irina McCarthy



Kevin McCarthy



Jacquelyn Sundheim



Stephen Straus



Nicolas Toledo-Zaragoza



Eduardo Uvaldo





# Fatalities, Injuries & Victim Impact

49 Victims Suffered Gunshot Wounds

Dozens of Victims Were Injured Attempting to Flee the Area

The Mental & Emotional Wellness of Thousands of People Have Been Impacted





# First Responders are not immune to the impact on mental & emotional wellness





# Mutual Aid By the Numbers

Over 1800 Local, County, State and Federal First Responders

- 6+ Federal Law Enforcement Agencies
- 70+ Local Law Enforcement Agencies
- 2 County Law Enforcement Agencies
- Illinois State Police
- 20+ Fire Departments
- 4 Emergency Communications Centers
- Hundreds of Social Workers, Civilian Personnel & Volunteers



# Mutual Aid Memberships & MOUs

- Northern IL Police Alarm System (NIPAS)
- Lake County Major Crimes Task Force
- Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT)
- IL Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS)
- Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)





# Command Center

- Location Selection
- Media Staging Location
- NIMS (National Incident Mgmt); ICS Protocols
- Site Security





# Public Communication

- Smart 911
- IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert Warning System)
- Hourly Press Updates
  - Protocol for press briefing – who, when, how long, where
  - Consideration to relocate media staging area
- Media Releases
- Dedicated information on City's web site
- Dual language translation
- Enews
- Social Media
- Government Partner, Resource Partner, Clergy Amplification



# What Services are Needed?

- “Need” to have versus “Nice” to have
- Reunification
- Crisis Counseling – immediate and ongoing
  - Family Assistance Center
- Reclaim belongings
- Business needs within closed crime scene
- Immigration support
- Communication

Support and services for employees is critical





# Managing "Events"





# One Week Vigil





# Investigation & Victim Support Services

## Family Assistance Center

- Key partners – FBI, Red Cross, LCEMA, local agencies, Simply Bee Counseling
- Guidance from the Dept. of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime

## Resource Navigation Center

- City led, in partnership with Red Cross, LCEMA, SD112, Community Partners
- Infrastructure, bi-lingual comms, food, volunteers

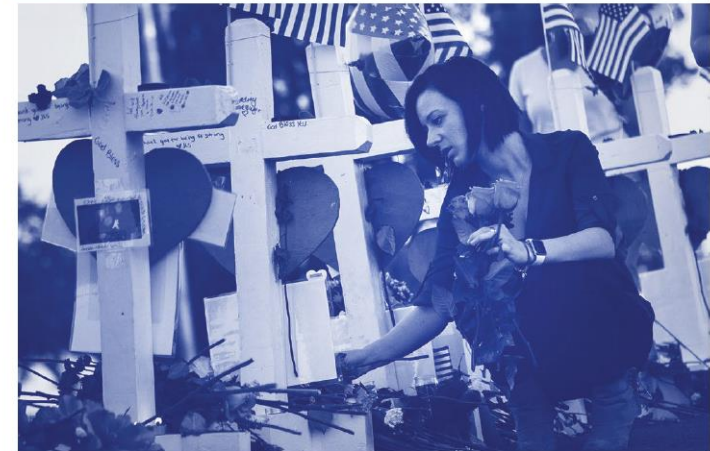


# Resources, Support & Guidance

- Lake County EMA
- Red Cross
- Government & Community Partners
- Mass Shooting Playbook for Mayors/Managers
- Call from Uvalde City Manager
- **FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, COLLEAGUES**

## Mass Shooting **PLAYBOOK**

A RESOURCE FOR U.S. MAYORS AND CITY MANAGERS



**PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
ADVOCACY  
INSTITUTE**

**Sarah C. Peck  
Emily Nink  
and  
Mark Gottlieb**

The Mass Shooting Protocol & Playbook is a two-part resource intended for mayors, city managers, and their staff. The Protocol covers the first 24 hours of the response. The supplemental Playbook provides best practices and resources city officials can use to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a public mass shooting.



# Support from the Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)

- Introduction of key personnel
- Information about Las Vegas shooting and other lessons learned
- Guidance on Family Assistance Center operations
- Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP) Grant





# What to Avoid

- “We are Strong”
- Healing
- Recovery
- Consider triggering language and actions
- Be Trauma Informed





# **Contracted/Temporary Positions for Add'l Support**

- Crisis Communications Consultant , AM Communications
  - Role and responsibility
- Security agency for supplemental law enforcement, P4 Security
- Management Analyst for Police Support, GovTemps
- Admn. Director, Resource Navigation Center
- North Shore Managers to the Rescue!!!



# Managing Public Expectations

- Ceased issuance of special event permits – despite ongoing requests
- Email management (1600 emails on July 4 & 5)
- Set up email, [HPCares@cityhpil.com](mailto:HPCares@cityhpil.com)
- Public presentation management
- On-going staff meetings critical to effective communication







# Donations and Volunteer Management

- Protocols for volunteers and in-kind donations
  - Social Worker services – opportunities and challenges
- Development of a Victims Fund Strategy
  - HP Community Foundation established fiduciary of the City
  - Managing GoFund me pages
  - Victims First
  - Resource: National Compassion Fund
- Direct volunteers where they can help / amplify good work
  - HP Volunteer Pool
- Food donations – city/partner agencies & victim support



## **God won't give you more than you can handle -Corinthians 10:13**

- Gunshot fired during driving dispute, 8/15
- Two deceased individuals, blood force trauma (no threat to public safety), HP Police Conducting Death Investigation, 9/7
- Heavy police presence, safety perimeter established, man w/ firearm, 9/16
- Two men charged with second degree murder of HP father, 10/18
  - Emphasis on no threat to public safety in public communication
  - Continued promotion of 211 Lake County & Other Support Services
  - After the Tragedy Seminar
  - Coming Together Around Public Safety Community Meeting



# Short-Term Memorials

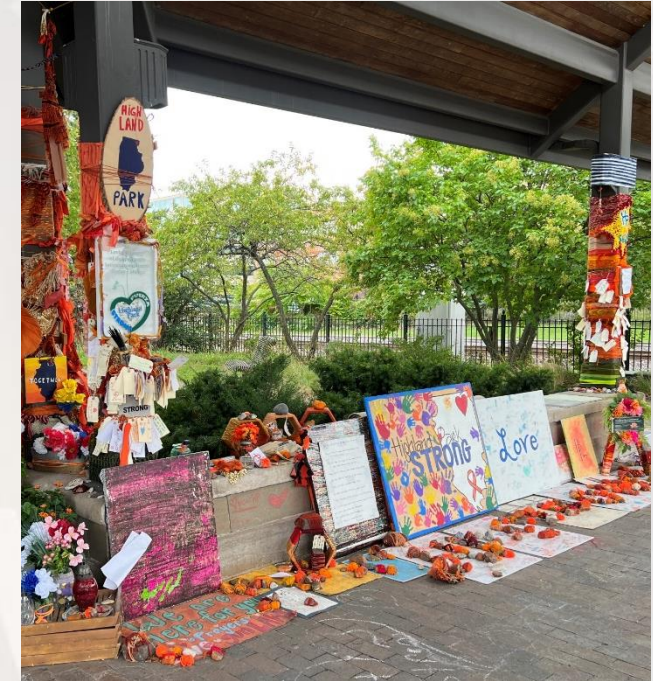
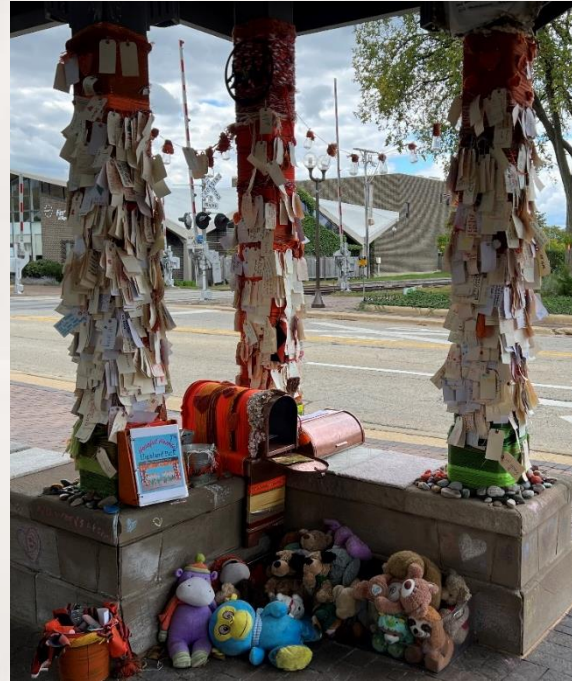
- Three short-term memorials established organically
- Guidance from DOJ/OVC
- Feedback from victims and the public
  - Managing conflicting feedback
- Do No Harm





# Short-Term Memorial Art Installation

- Multi-media event location
- Special event permit necessary
- Managing comfort vs concerns





# City Established Temporary Memorial Rose Garden, adjacent to City Hall

Will continue to be maintained until permanent memorial is established





# Permanent Memorial Planning Options

- Options:
  - Council / PDHP Steering Committee
  - Open Call for Applications
  - Open Call for Applications with Specific Appointees representing distinct groups
- Advisory to the Mayor / Council
- In place for 3-5 years
- Compliant with OMA & current practices for commissions/groups



# On-Going Resiliency Operations

- Set-up Resiliency Division within the City Admn
  - Staffing & Purpose
- Monthly Meetings with Government Partners & Community Partners

## Government:

- Highland Park Library
- Highwood Library
- Lake County (Admn, EMA and SAO)
- Moraine Township
- Park District of Highland Park
- SD112
- SD113

## Resource Partners:

- HP Community Foundation
- 211 Lake County/United Way
- North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
- Family Services of Lake County



# Debriefs / After Action / Hot Washes

- Various Debriefs organized by the City
  - Senior Staff
  - City Council
  - Communications/PIO
  - Government & Resource Partners
  - City AAR draft underway for public information
- Illinois & Lake County Emergency Management contract with IEM
- Special Teams





# High level overview of Next Steps

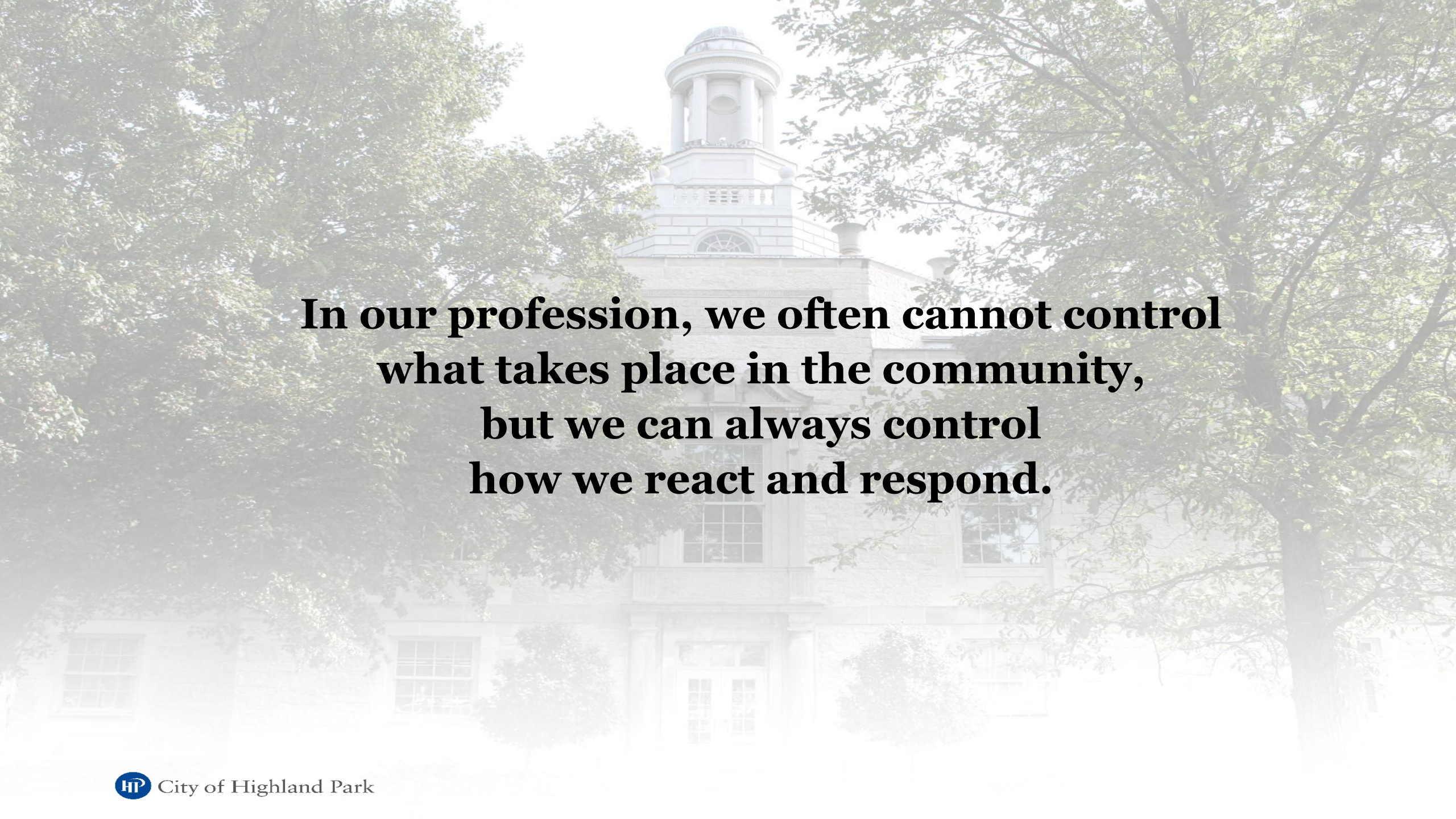
- Recognition Ceremonies & Recognition Outreach to Partners
- Update to the City's Emergency Operations Plan
- Funding to renovate and/or create additional EOC
- Special Event Permits / Incident Action Plans
- Media Training – City Council & Senior Staff
- Retain text messages
- Emergency Preparedness to include community partners – (past tabletops only included staff, government partners, hospital, Ravinia Festival)
- Mutual Aid for Administrative/Communications Personnel
- Stop the Bleed training
- Legislative action (drone bill)
- Police technology & resources



# Planning for July 4, 2023

- Emergency Preparedness
- 10 AM Remembrance
- 11 AM Community Walk
- 11:30 AM Community Picnic
- 6:30 PM Music/Entertainment
- 9:30 PM Drone Display
- Coordination with staff, gov/partner agencies, neighboring communities, victims, public
- Employee and public mental and emotional considerations





**In our profession, we often cannot control  
what takes place in the community,  
but we can always control  
how we react and respond.**



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