



A Message from the Village of Wilmette Regarding the Highland Park Shooting

Yesterday, our neighbors in Highland Park experienced a horrifying tragedy, with a gunman taking the lives of multiple individuals and wounding dozens more. This occurred against the backdrop of a community celebrating Independence Day together. This event is devastating and will have a lasting impact on their community as well as our entire region.

I, along with the members of the Wilmette Village Board, want to extend our deepest sympathies to the victims and their families who are suffering and grieving. Words cannot express the sadness and despair that we feel, and our hearts go out to the victims, their families, and the community of Highland Park.

Yesterday we also witnessed first responders from across our region working together in a well-coordinated response. These joint efforts focused both on providing aid to the victims and pursuing the suspect, ultimately leading to his apprehension and arrest. We want to thank the brave and extraordinary efforts of these first responders and all those that provided aid and assistance to save others. During times like these it is important to remember that we as a community love and care for one another and that there are individuals committed to doing all they can to keep us safe.

As details continue to emerge over the coming days, we will review and assess our policies and procedures in response to such tragic incidents. We want to assure our residents that the Wilmette Police and Fire Departments regularly work with our community partners at the Park District, Library, School Districts, private schools, and houses of worship to provide support and safety guidance for our residents. The unfortunate reality is that we continually need to plan and prepare to respond to unforeseen and devastating events. An integral part of any response is timely communications to our residents during emergency situations. We strongly urge residents to sign-up for emergency communications through [Smart911](#) through which you can receive text and phone updates as well as the [Village's E-News](#). With the many emergency sirens and helicopters heard throughout Monday, the Village used both of these communication tools to assure our residents that there was no known threat to the community.

To help residents and families process this act of violence and provide support to one another, our partners at School District 39 have compiled resources that may be beneficial to support your families. [Click here](#) for these resources.

Additionally, we have been asked by many members of our community how they can help. Highland Park will be sharing information on their [website](#) about how to donate to the victims, survivors, and the community. The kindness and generosity of all in our community and throughout the country will have a significant impact in the lives of those touched by this tragedy.

We stand together with our neighbors in Highland Park and want the victims, their families and friends to know that they are in our thoughts and hearts. We pledge our support to the community of Highland Park during this crisis and throughout the healing process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Senta Plunkett".

Village President Senta Plunkett