

Cook County Pride Committee:

Response To Headlines From June 15th Celebration

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: info@cookcountypride.org



The Cook County Pride Committee is proud of the ongoing Pride celebration throughout the month of June in our north shore community. As we reflect on our main event last Saturday, June 15th, the committee would like to share some insight into the recent headlines declaring the presence and impact of a threat to our celebration.

The day-long celebration was a huge success starting early in the morning and continuing late into the night. The year-long planning paid off in every event, fostering connections among the youngest and oldest participants from the reaches of our community and beyond. When headlines of a bomb threat seemed to steal the narrative of our joyful, loving and connecting event, we decided to ensure the world knew our story.

Members of the Pride Committee received word of the threat in the midst of the ongoing celebration on Saturday morning. Part of our extensive planning involved designated security leaders from our local community and professional collaborators brought in for support. We were already actively communicating with law enforcement to ensure the safety of everyone at our event. So, when the threat arose, we immediately followed our protocol, in collaboration with law enforcement and determined shortly thereafter that there was no evidence of danger to validate the claim of violence.

Due to our internal planning and external collaboration with law enforcement, we were able to continue our pride celebration, uninterrupted, with minimal disruption for those involved in the response. Considering our theme for this year's event, "We Belong Here", this was a powerful way to claim the truth of these words and celebrate with a feeling of both safety and joy. Due to our efforts, relationships across the community, and diligence as a collective, we continue to celebrate our belonging in this small but relevant rural community.

The Cook County Pride Committee hopes that other queer communities can hear our story and be inspired to celebrate belonging through intentional community engagement. Thank you to all of Cook County, Grand Portage, and beyond for celebrating with us.