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\$2 Million of Justine Ruszczyk Settlement Given to The Minneapolis Foundation

Dollars will go to the Foundation's Fund for Safe Communities

MINNEAPOLIS – Justine Maia Ruszczyk's family has directed \$2 million of their \$20 million settlement from the City of Minneapolis to The Minneapolis Foundation's Fund for Safe Communities. In a statement issued by Justine's father, John Ruszczyk, the family shares their interest in honoring Justine's memory by helping make communities safer.

"The Ruszczyk family donates this 2 million dollars to The Minneapolis Foundation's Fund for Safe Communities in the name of Justine Maia Ruszczyk. Justine was special to us and we believe the world is diminished having lost her. We are certain other families feel the same about the ones they have lost to gun violence.

"We are all aware that love is not bulletproof. We must find ways to reduce the threats to the ones we love. We hope these funds will help reinforce successful existing programs and give birth to new ideas and new channels of communication so our communities become safe for everyone."

The Foundation is committed to stewarding the Ruszczyk family's vision to fruition. Senior Vice President of Community Impact, Chanda Smith Baker, is in contact with local families who have been impacted by gun violence as well as organizations and coalitions focused on building safer communities for all people. Baker is developing a process to determine how to best invest these funds in the near-term, understanding the importance of transparency for Justine's family and the community.

"These funds acknowledge that when a tragedy happens, the pain ripples throughout the community to many people in many different ways," said Baker.

"Our role now is to be the community's steward of these resources so the pain we feel today leads to actions that prevent more pain and injustice in the future. No one's life should tragically end in violence. As a community foundation, we can help honor Justine's legacy by making sure that community receives these funds. We hold that responsibility seriously."

The Minneapolis Foundation is a 104-year-old foundation focused on bringing people, ideas, and resources together to advance equity. The Foundation is grateful that Justine Ruszczyk's family has

entrusted it to use these funds to honor her life and others who have lost loved ones in police-community violence.

Grant opportunities from the Foundation's Fund for Safe Communities will be announced this fall. To receive updates on The Minneapolis Foundation's grant cycles, please visit **minneapolisfoundation.org/grants/overview**. To read the Rusczyk family's complete statement about their donation in memory of Justine, please visit **minneapolisfoundation.org/news/media-center**.

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About The Minneapolis Foundation: For more than 100 years, The Minneapolis Foundation has connected people, resources, and ideas to improve lives in Minnesota and beyond. The Foundation manages \$890 million in assets, providing customized and tax-smart giving solutions that result in the average annual distribution of more than \$50 million in grants. The Foundation brings people together to unite behind common goals and spark positive change in our community.

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