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Indiana State Fair Commission approves process for relief fund distribution

INDIANAPOLIS (Sept. 23, 2011) – The Indiana State Fair Commission today adopted a process for distribution of donations from the State Fair Relief Fund which will enable payments to victims of the Aug. 13 accident at the Indiana State Fairgrounds to begin as early as next week. A claim form will be available on Monday, and distributions will begin as soon as claims information is verified.

With the assistance of nationally recognized victims compensation expert Kenneth Feinberg, the relief fund protocol has been designed similarly to one used by Virginia Tech following tragic shootings at the university in 2007.

“On the advice of Mr. Feinberg, we prioritized relief amounts based on those who were killed and hospitalized. His input helped us reach decisions about process and amounts quickly, and now it’s our goal to start making payments almost immediately,” said Andre Lacy, chairman of the Commission. “People have been very generous with their donations, and we are proceeding with their wishes to get this assistance to victims.”

The relief fund, which totals \$796,280.50 to date, will be distributed according to four classifications:

- \$35,000 for death claims
- \$25,000 for those admitted and hospitalized for at least 10 days and nights
- \$7,500 for those admitted and hospitalized for 4-9 days and nights
- \$3,000 for those admitted and hospitalized for 1-3 nights and days

As the fund administrator, Lacy said Feinberg will meet with accident victims who request a meeting to discuss their claims.

Because the total number of claimants is not known, the initial distribution contemplates payments totaling about \$700,000 to assure the fund is not overspent. Additional distributions of remaining funds and newly donated funds are anticipated. Donations to the relief fund will be accepted until Oct. 31, 2012.

The protocol and claim form will be made available online at www.in.gov/sfc on Monday (Sept. 26) and may be obtained from the state fair relief fund claims processor, whose function is to facilitate collection of required documentation. Claim forms should be submitted by Nov. 14; however, payments will begin as soon as forms are submitted and information confirmed.

Payments from the relief fund are a gift from donors and are not considered as compensation for injuries or death resulting from the accident. Acceptance of relief funds does not constitute a

waiver or release of any claims victims, or their representatives, may have against an entity that may later be found liable for the accident.

The state fair claims administrator may be reached at: Indiana State Fair Commission, Administrative Building, Attn: Claims Processor, 1202 East 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46205. Toll free: 1-855-222-0003.

A copy of the relief fund protocol may be found at www.in.gov/sfc.