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## **CELL IMPLEMENTS PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FOR SUPER BOWL LII VOLUNTEERS IN MN**

### **Survivors of Boston Marathon Bombing Narrate "Champions for Safety" Training Video**

**Minneapolis, MN (January 18, 2018)** - The Denver-based Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab (CELL) and the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) are training more than 10,000 Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee Crew 52 volunteers. Volunteers will be trained between January 7 and 22 on how to recognize and report suspicious activity in preparation for the 10 days of Super Bowl festivities beginning January 26. The volunteers are receiving a public safety training called the Community Awareness Program® (CAP®), which was developed by the CELL and is SAFETY Act Certified by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The SAFETY Act provides important legal liability protections for providers of Qualified Anti-Terrorism Technologies.

The CELL worked with MPD to customize the CAP for Super Bowl LII, which includes a training video narrated by Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes, survivors of the Boston Marathon Bombing.

"The CELL is proud to work with MPD to help secure the Super Bowl LII festivities," said Melanie Pearlman, executive director of the CELL. "And we are honored that Jessica and Patrick agreed to serve as narrators of the 'Champions for Safety' video. They are true heroes who share an important message of empowerment and collaboration with law enforcement."

"Given recent events and the new realities for major events and venues, it is imperative that law enforcement partner with our community to enhance public safety," said Commander Scott Gerlicher, of the MPD. "With over one million visitors expected later this month, these volunteers are ambassadors for our great city. With this specialized CAP training, which we've called 'Champions for Safety,' they will learn what to be on the lookout for and how to respond."

"Just seven months after our wedding, we were enjoying a day off together at the finish line of the Boston Marathon," said Patrick Downes. "And then, two bombs exploded, changing our lives forever. We never want to see that happen again."

"That is why we are committed to empowering all of you to make Super Bowl LII a safe and unforgettable experience for everyone involved," said Jessica Kensky.

The Champions for Safety training video can be seen on the Minneapolis Police Department's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReZltyzwcCg>

### **About the Community Awareness Program® (CAP®)**

The CAP trains citizens how to recognize and report suspicious activity, while preserving civil liberties protected by the U.S. Constitution. It is designed to be effective in organizations of varying size and function, such as states and municipalities, sporting events, public venues, community organizations, and private companies. The CELL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan center dedicated to preventing terrorism through education, empowerment and engagement, and is based in Denver, Colorado.

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