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Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners Allocates ARPA Funding for Tornado Disaster Recovery Efforts

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners has taken swift action in response to the devastation caused by the tornado that struck on May 7, 2024. Allocating funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, the Board approved substantial financial assistance at their May 21 meeting to aid in the recovery efforts across the affected areas.

The allocation includes \$270,000 designated to [United Way](#) for disaster recovery assistance, as well as \$530,000 earmarked for relief and cleanup efforts in the aftermath of the recent tornadoes. These funds will be distributed strategically to maximize their impact and provide essential support to the communities in need.

“We understand the profound impact of the recent tornado on the lives of our residents,” said Board Chair Tami Rey. “Our hearts go out to all those who have endured the trauma and loss caused by these devastating events. The allocation of ARPA funding underscores our unwavering commitment to supporting our community members as they navigate through this challenging time. We stand with them, offering financial assistance, compassion, and solidarity as we work together to rebuild and restore hope in the face of adversity.”

In alignment with this commitment, the funds will be distributed as follows:

- \$250,000 to the City of Portage
- \$150,000 to Pavilion Charter Township
- \$130,000 to Texas Township

John Speeter, Pavilion Charter Township Supervisor, understands that the evening of Tuesday, May 7, changed the lives of many of the residents in Pavilion Charter Township.

"The historic damages incurred in areas in and around Pavilion Estates Mobile Home Park resulted in many unexpected emergency service costs. The Township is most appreciative of Kalamazoo County's prompt response and offer of financial assistance," he said.

Erik Wilson, Texas Township Superintendent, expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts and support received from various stakeholders.

"Texas Township is appreciative of the collaborative efforts of all our local, state, and federal stakeholders, as well as the volunteers that have come forward to help," Wilson said. "The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners' contribution will help provide much-needed financial support in our community's recovery efforts."

Pat McGinnis, City Manager for Portage, also recognized the significance of this support in easing their recovery process.

"Portage is grateful for the compassion shown by our County leaders," he said. "It is going to be a rough recovery, but the support provided by Kalamazoo County will make it less burdensome on the people of Portage."

The Board also recognizes the importance of assisting residents who may not be eligible for support through the United Way. As such, they are actively exploring additional avenues to extend aid to all individuals impacted by the tornado.

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