

## **CITY OF CHICAGO – Office of Emergency Management & Communications**

**2025 Budget Hearing – November 12, 2024**

**Jose Tirado, Executive Director**

Good afternoon, Chairman Ervin, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the City Council. I'm Jose Tirado, the Executive Director for the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC). It is my honor to be here with you today to answer any questions you may have for OEMC.

The year 2025 will mark OEMC's 30th anniversary, and it is remarkable how this department has grown and evolved over the last three decades. I am grateful for the dedicated professionals at OEMC, who work 24-7 to ensure the safety and well-being of all Chicago residents and visitors.

This past year, OEMC led coordination efforts in response to severe weather, including the tornadoes and severe storms in July. These tornadoes resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration, making much-needed federal assistance available to Chicago residents and businesses. OEMC also coordinated the citywide effort for large-scale special events, like NASCAR, Lollapalooza, the Chicago Marathon, and most notably – the Democratic National Convention.

For over a year, OEMC worked alongside the Secret Service, the Chicago Police Department, the Chicago Fire Department, and other City agencies and key partners to coordinate the citywide public safety and security plan around the DNC. During the DNC, OEMC served as the hub for the City's public safety and communication efforts through the Emergency Operations Center and the Joint Information Center. I want to acknowledge and thank all the dedicated professionals who made the DNC a success, including our OEMC employees – and especially our 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 call takers and dispatchers. It was their dedication behind the scenes that ensured the safety of our city throughout that week.

Another important initiative in 2024 that I'd like to highlight is the Houses of Worship Training series that OEMC, CPD, and CDPH completed last month. Through these Disaster Preparedness training sessions, we provided nearly 50 different houses of worship and more than 125 people with vital emergency preparedness and public safety training to keep their members and facilities safe. After the training, OEMC provided participating houses of worship with a wall-mounted bleeding control kit for their facility.

Looking ahead to 2025, OEMC will continue to provide best-in-class 9-1-1 emergency service. This includes continuing work towards updating the 9-1-1 network and phone system to be Next Generation 9-1-1 compliant, which will allow us to receive texts and videos among other enhanced capabilities. OEMC will also further develop and expand

call taking and dispatching for mental health related calls, which will be centralized under OEMC in partnership with the Mayor's Office and CDPH.

Finally, I am excited to share that as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, OEMC hired two new clinicians for our 9-1-1 floor. These first-of-their-kind positions onsite at OEMC will develop and deliver much-needed programming for our employees around mental health and stress management to increase employee wellness.

In closing, this year has been challenging and I would like to thank the workforce at OEMC for their dedication and commitment to our city and its residents. They continue to rise to the occasion and work tirelessly around the clock to keep this city safe.

Again, thank you, Chairman, and members of the City Council. I look forward to answering any of your questions.

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