

## **OEMC Acting Executive Director Tirado 2024 Budget Remarks**

Good afternoon, Chairman Ervin, Vice Chairman Lee, and members of the City Council.

My name is Jose Tirado, and I am the Acting Executive Director for the Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC). It is my honor to be here with you today to answer your questions and any concerns you may have regarding OEMC.

As you know, OEMC manages the city's 9-1-1 Center, 3-1-1 Center, Emergency Management, and Traffic Management Authority. Many of you are familiar with our role in providing public safety planning and coordination, as well as conducting exercises and drills, for everything from large-scale events to public safety emergencies.

I am extremely proud of the dedicated professionals at OEMC, who work 24-7 to ensure the safety and well-being of all Chicago residents, visitors, and new arrivals. I would also like to thank our many partners throughout the city that not only help OEMC to carry out our mission, but also help to keep Chicago safe.

This year, OEMC led coordination efforts, alongside our City partners, in response to severe weather, including historic flooding, as well as large special events and festivals like the NASCAR Chicago Street Race, Lollapalooza, and the recent Chicago Marathon. This is in addition to handling nearly 20,000 calls per day into our 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 call centers.

Earlier this year, OEMC introduced a new public safety tool, the Chicago OEMC App. The app provides users with emergency alerts, weather reports from the National Weather Service, street closures, event information, ward and district maps, safety and preparedness tips, and much more. We encourage everyone to download the app, which is available through the Apple and Google Play stores.

Currently, OEMC is coordinating the citywide response effort, along with the Department of Family and Support Services, the Mayor's Office, and other city departments to receive and provide temporary shelter for new arrivals from the southern border that are being sent to Chicago. Since August 31, 2022, we have welcomed over 18,700 new arrivals into the city. These individuals include families, children, and infants seeking refuge.

OEMC continues to work collaboratively with our stakeholders and regional partners to ensure our public safety efforts meet the highest standards. In 2023, OEMC hosted both the Whole Community Summit and the 2023 National Homeland Security Conference in Chicago, where we showcased our best practices in public safety and emergency management to jurisdictions throughout the region and the country.

This was the first time the National Homeland Security Conference was held in Chicago, and it was the largest attended conference to date with public safety officials representing local, state, and federal jurisdictions. A conference highlight included a water rescue and

terrorist attack demonstration on the Chicago River coordinated by OEMC, the Chicago Police Department and the Chicago Fire Department.

On July 2nd, during our first ever NASCAR street race, the City of Chicago experienced torrential rainfall that resulted in devastating floods, primarily impacting the city's south and west sides. In response, the City worked around the clock, partnering with our State, County, and federal counterparts, to secure a presidential declaration for this event, making individual assistance available to our impacted residents for the first time in 10 years. As of October 18<sup>th</sup>, over \$126M in individual assistance has been awarded to Chicago residents.

In 2023, OEMC partnered with City Colleges to offer a class specific to OEMC's functions to aid in diversifying and strengthening OEMC's job applicant pool. This OEMC class is now being offered at multiple campuses (Macolm X, Kennedy King). We are working to expand the class to additional City Colleges locations in the near future.

Finally, as the city prepares to host the 2024 Democratic Convention next August, OEMC is working alongside our federal partners to coordinate the citywide public safety effort and security planning around the convention with all critical stakeholders. The DNC is in addition to the City's already broad special events portfolio and will once again shine a spotlight on our great City.

In closing, I would like to thank our OEMC staff for their dedication and commitment to our city and its residents. They work tirelessly around the clock and oftentimes behind the scenes to keep this city safe. Again, thank you, Chairman, and members of the City Council. I look forward to answering any of your questions.

**###**