

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: 2.19.2020
TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Christine Westrich, Director, Office of Emergency Management
SUBJECT: From the Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), an Informational Report on current preparedness activities for the July 13-16, 2020 Democratic National Convention

OVERVIEW

The Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is engaged in preparedness activities for the County of Milwaukee with involvement from numerous departments and integration with multiple layers of local governments and agencies alike, to include assisting institutions from outside Wisconsin.

BACKGROUND

Preparedness activities for the Democratic National Convention (DNC) this July 13-16, 2020, began in earnest this past summer, with OEM hosting an education seminar in partnership with state Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) officials on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) with City of Milwaukee participants to include the Milwaukee Police Department and City attorneys. This Compact serves as a comprehensive and universal mechanism for jurisdictions to request out-of-state resources and after-action reports from Cleveland's 2016 RNC emphasized its value. OEM and WEM stand ready to assist the City if a need of additional resources is identified pre-, during, or post- convention.

The City and County have mutually agreed to host a joint emergency operations center (EOC) that will have multiple shifts ensuring 24/7 coverage throughout the convention. Over fifty persons will be on-hand to handle the entire spectrum of events to include minor troubles of wayfinding to major incidents involving complex, cascading disruptions.

In addition to the EOC, there will be several additional operational centers to include a Multi-Agency Communications Center (MACC), Joint Operations Center (JOC), Joint Information Center (JIC), US Coast Guard Sector Command Center (SCC), and Airspace Security Operations Center (ASOC). Each center is hosted by a federal agency, among them, FEMA, the FBI, and US Secret Service.

FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS) will provide the framework for devolution of authority and the Incident Command System (ICS) therein provides a universal understanding of identifying field commanders and the allocation of resources to any event or incident they may be leading.

Ensuring readiness for such real-time events includes multi-layered geospatial

informational services that map area operations with numerous details to include first responder staging, access points and evacuation routes, to name a few. OEM GIS has directly supported the City of Milwaukee with additional County support from our robust DAS Land Information Office. The digital mapping capabilities of the County are state of the art and a valuable asset in large event planning such as the DNC.

Coordination among so many players begins locally, and OEM is instrumental in ensuring radio communications are interoperable yet simple enough for non-local partners to easily manage their talkgroups when sharing and dispatching critical communications.

OEM provides local assistance with our FEMA-authorized alerting system allowing geofencing text messages to residents and visitors during escalating situations or ongoing threats. The integrated warning system is not subscription based and is received by all cellular devices allowing a long reach to intensely populated areas.

The OEM 911 Communications Center will have robust staffing in anticipation of increased highway and freeway calls, to include municipal cellular calls originating outside the jurisdiction of the Milwaukee County Sheriff. Call handling will be staffed in accordance with our key performance metric of answering 90% of our calls within 10 seconds.

OEM's Emergency Medical Service professionals will be operating from the Fiserv Forum Arena Operations Center (AOC) during convention events. Ongoing real-time event support by OEM paramedics has been underway since the arena's opening in September of 2018 and the integration with the Milwaukee Fire Department is strong and cohesive. Additional medical support unique to the convention involves local health system nurses and various medical teams throughout the security footprint to include OEM's Medical Director and Associates, all emergency department physicians.

Internal to County government, OEM is actively assessing the geography of the publicly released preliminary security footprint and its impact on County services that reside within this perimeter. All County departments and agencies have Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans and these are being closely refined in partnership with DAS IMSD and DAS Facilities' space planners.

Downtown traffic routes and vehicular access are restrictive during the week of the convention and relocation or telework of non-essential personnel in various departments and agencies may be an optimum scenario in order to ensure continuity in County services that are located at the Courthouse Complex and the leased space at 633 W. Wisconsin Ave. Communications to leaders are underway while individual cooperation is excellent as patience and flexibility are mutual among all parties.

Preparedness planning is especially active in many departments of the County Executive's Cabinet to include Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC), the Department of Transportation (DOT) MCTS services, the MKE airport, our County Parks, and the

Medical Examiner. Engagement includes the study of potential revenue streams, letters of mutual support, ensuring First Amendment protections, and routing of transportation services.

In late January, the US Secret Service hosted a senior leader tabletop exercise with deep involvement by the FBI and FEMA. Over 35 local leaders were seated and engaged in discussion for developing scenarios that ran the gamut of peaceful demonstrations to airborne drone threats to coordinated attacks. The focus was to achieve mutual understanding of jurisdictional roles and decision-making authorities, while also emphasizing the efficient coordination of information sharing and accurate situational awareness. Additionally, the roles and authorities of varying operations centers, as alluded to earlier, were identified to include the relationships connecting one to another for operational coordination.

The DNC's status as a National Special Security Event (NSSE) establish the week of July 13-16 as a high stakes environment and OEM is doing nothing short of all-hands on deck in our preparedness efforts to ensure all County services are uninterrupted and our residents and visitors have equity to access our services, with compassionate quality, and with a care continuum that is unhindered by this national spotlight.

RECOMMENDATION

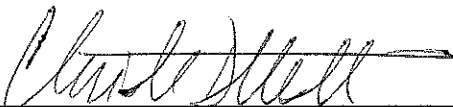
This report is informational and intended to raise awareness on the vast level of engagement by multiple County departments and agencies. Additionally, this discussion may lead to further discoveries of new requirements that will layer the protections and safety of our services for our residents and visitors.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City of Milwaukee is the awardee of the federal grant for the Democratic National Convention. Sub-grantees are permissive based on stringent Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) criteria and is generally committed to actions serving public safety.

The Office of the Comptroller is engaged in ensuring proper payroll documentation is created and adhered to during preparations and, of course, the DNC event itself.

The OCC is engaged with several City of Milwaukee attorneys on possible applications of reimbursement on behalf of County government elected officials and departments within the County Executive's Cabinet.



Christine Westrich
Director, Office of Emergency Management

Attachments: None

CC: Chris Abele, County Executive
Supervisor James "Luigi" Schmitt, Chair, Committee on Finance & Audit
Finance & Audit Committee Members
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
Joseph Lamers, Director, DAS-Performance, Strategy and Budget (DAS-PSB)
Lindsey Peterson, Fiscal and Management Analyst, DAS-PSB
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
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