



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County**

**Emergency Management and Regional Security Committee**

**Wednesday, October 19, 2022**

**12:00 PM**

**Virtual meeting**

**NOTICE AND AGENDA**

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Authorization as a virtual public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have submitted in writing, their name, email address, phone number, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized virtual public speakers may speak live from the Commissioners reception area at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, IL or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> or in a viewing area at 69 W.Washington Street, 22nd Floor Conference Room F, Chicago, IL. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

[22-6004](#)

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 10/23/2019

[22-5347](#)

**Sponsored by:** BILL LOWRY, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL SECURITY**

**WHEREAS**, The Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (“EMRS”) enhances the safety and security of Cook County and its residents by working to build capacity to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from all incidents, both human-caused and natural. EMRS is responsible for coordinating the County’s response to a large-scale emergency or disaster. On a day-to-day basis, EMRS supports municipalities by providing guidance and coordinating resources as needed, including to suburban law enforcement partners; and

**WHEREAS**, EMRS is not a law enforcement entity, the Department has limited authority and ability to assist with responding to violence and crime specifically. If local law enforcement requests assistance from EMRS, it would typically be in the form of equipment requests such as light towers and jersey barriers. In a rapidly evolving and complex incident, such as an active shooter scenario, local law enforcement may request the use of EMRS’ Unified Command Post/Vehicle, which is equipped with technology allowing for enhanced incident coordination; and

**WHEREAS**, EMRS maintains strong relationships with municipal law enforcement partners, which may potentially be leveraged to support violence prevention programs. Additionally, EMRS has also served as the County fiscal agent of Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funds, which provides federal funding for criminal justice projects, including violence prevention programs. Over the past several years, EMRS made a concerted effort to increase the awards to community-based organizations working with justice-impacted populations, including a pre-apprentice carpentry program with the Chicagoland Prison Outreach, reentry programming with the Haymarket Center, and Leave No Veterans Behind; and

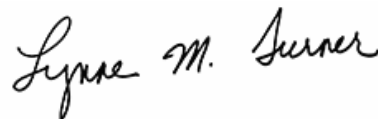
**WHEREAS**, on July 1, 2022, former Executive Director William “Bill” Barnes resigned from his position as Executive Director of EMRS. Subsequently, on July 1, 2022, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Toni Preckwinkle, appointed Theodore “Ted” Berger as the new Executive Director of the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security; and

**WHEREAS**, Theodore Berger returns to EMRS where he was previously Chief Deputy Director from 2017-2021, serving as Deputy Incident Commander for the County’s COVID-19 unified command response directly managing emergency operations center activation with over 200 personnel. During his tenure with EMRS, Theodore Berger also served a nine-month assignment as interim Deputy Chief of Staff to the President’s Office providing intergovernmental and operational coordination between six bureaus and 34 departments; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Cook County Emergency Management and Regional

Security Committee convene a meeting to introduce new Executive Director, Theodore Berger and discuss the new leadership of EMRS; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, EMRS will provide an overall update relative to its recent operations, programs, and initiatives, specifically relative to Cook County's COVID-19 vaccination planning.



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Secretary

Chairman: Lowry  
Vice-Chairman: Silvestri  
Members: Committee of the Whole