



MEMORANDUM

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

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To: Ald. José G. Pérez
From: Kari B. Gipson
Date: 10/25/2018
Subject: Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC)

In response to your question regarding whether or not the City is required to have an emergency manager per Wis. Stats. 323.14 (1) (b), the Legislative Reference Bureau contacted the Fire and Police Commission for more information.

Section 323.14 (1) (b), Wis. Stats., states:

1. The governing body of each city, village, or town shall develop and adopt an emergency management plan and program that is compatible with the state plan of emergency management adopted under s. 323.13 (1)(b).
2. The governing body of each city, village, or town shall designate a head of emergency management services.

The 2018 Budget included the position of Homeland Security Director. The incumbent retired in this position in early 2018. The position was eliminated in the 2019 proposed budget. The Fire and Police Commission reports that a new position of Director of Emergency Management and Communications will be created in 2019 to oversee the newly restructured Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC). This position is not listed in the 2019 Budget.

OEMC will focus on the City's emergency communications infrastructure and policies, which impact both the police and fire departments. The change will align the City with other statewide organizational structures and provide a mechanism to coordinate first responders during an incident. OEMC will coordinate emergency planning, disaster preparedness, and response training for the City of Milwaukee. The restructuring of this office will involve interdepartmental coordination across all levels of government, public and private partnerships, as well as applying for and managing grants that provide assistance for disaster preparedness.

The Mayor may make an appointment for the Director of Emergency Management and Communications before the end of 2018.

The Finance and Personnel hearing for the Fire and Police Commission's 2019 budget took place on October 15, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. and outlines information regarding the restructuring of the City's emergency management function at the 19-minute mark.