



## **3<sup>RD</sup> WARD MEETING MINUTES – ALDERMAN DENISE RODD**

**September 11, 2013**

### **AGENDA**

- 911 Memorial
- Emergency Operations Center

### **911 MEMORIAL**

Denise and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward residents gathered at the 911 Memorial in front of City Hall. Denise shared her thoughts of remembrance of this day 12 years ago when citizens and first responders lost their lives to terrorist attacks. A moment of silence was held while distant bells played “God Bless America.”

Deputy Director of Homeland Security, Officer John Pluta, joined Denise at the memorial for a few words and to welcome the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward residents to the EOC.

“We Shall Never Forget!”

### **EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER**

EOC is an IEMA accredited operation used at all times for various incidents. Grants and polices come with being an accredited operation. Volunteers help out within the departments, which include Emergency Services, Neighborhood Watch, Citizens on Patrol, Fire Corps and assisting citizens during emergencies. EOC provides support services and acts as the primary crisis management center for the City. Surrounding communities work together and share EOCs. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Officer John Pluta at [jpluta@desplaines.org](mailto:jpluta@desplaines.org)

The EOC is located in the basement of City Hall and comprised of several rooms: Main Operations, Planning, Weather, Communications, and living quarters. EOC is set up to be a “home” for several days/weeks for City officials should the need arise.

### **EOC: WHAT DOES IT DO?**

How does the EOC fit into a Unified Incident Center? What are the responsibilities? Describe the issues related to the City that the ICS assists. There is an Action Plan for every incident, from the most elaborate to the simplest. City of Des Plaines has a response plan which established a comprehensive approach to any incident. EOC works the incident along with Police and Fire.

Prior to 911, there was no way to have community governments speak to each other from local on up the government chain. This was how the Incident Center/EOS came together and adapted an integral structure for communities hindered by jurisdictional boundaries. ICS helps to ensure the safety of first responders.

EOC puts out communications to public, updates the City’s website and works collectively with City departments. The EOC oversees resources, coordinates and supports the on-scene command, and provides policy guidelines.

Deputy Director handles:

- Briefings and meetings
- Activation, briefing, and coordinating of staff
- Determines information needed
- Manage day-to-day operations
- Oversees Mutual Aid
- Coordinates with state and local governments

## **NIMS**

National Incident Management System – Flexible Framework applicable to all hazards and jurisdictions. NIMS is a component for any incident. NIMS prepares for the most elaborate to simplest of incidents providing a nationwide template to prepare a city for such incidents as:

- Flu Outbreak (pandemic)
- Earthquake/Tornados/Flash Floods/In Land Hurricanes
- Terrorism
- National Security Events (NATO)
- Sports Events

## **ICS**

Incident Control Services differs from the day to day structure. Person put in charge of the incident is determined by the site of the incident with the best qualified to handle the incident. For example, the director of Public Works handled the April flooding event.

## **NIMS/ICS Benefits**

- Meets the needs of incidents of any kind or size
- Logistical/administrative Support
- Cost effective by avoiding duplicity

## **RESIDENTS**

Public can give a hand in helping the EOC during an incident, too. Civilians can be prepared by having emergency kit at the ready. Residents should be prepared for power outages/water shortage/evacuation. Deputy Director Pluta handed out an *Emergency Readiness Book* that is published by FEMA to those who participated at Wednesday's meeting. For more information on being prepared to evacuate go to [www.desplaines.org](http://www.desplaines.org) website. Deputy Director John Pluta can be reached at [jpluta@desplaines.org](mailto:jpluta@desplaines.org).

Items for Emergency Kit:

- Water
- Canned and non-perishable food
- Flashlight and batteries
- Medicine
- First Aid Kit
- Pet Supplies

## **QUESTIONS/ANSWERS**

- With Station 1 of the Fire Department under water during last flood, was Public Works able to operate? Yes. Trucks were high enough to get through flood waters. The difficult part was getting to Public Works because of the flooding.
- How do you keep emergency kits in car with heat and cold temperatures? It is suggested that 3 emergency kits be prepared, home, business and car. Keep car kit in climate control area till required – such as house or garage.
- What is the elevation of the Town? The river elevations are being re-mapped. Recent flooding showed different levels of flood stage and the river is constantly changing underneath. Des Plaines was finding that our infrastructure is collapsing and streets are caving in because of underground natural springs and wells.
- Have heard that the Army Corps of Engineers talked about pulling Damns? Yes. Corps of Engineers wants to put the river back to its natural stage. Damns are to be removed, which will help ease flooding.
- Construction of a levee to start at Touhy/River 2014.
- How is the EOC different from the 911 Center? 911 Center takes in 911 emergency calls and refers them to Police/Fire. EOC controls day-to-day operations in what would be called an incident – any occurrence that is caused by human/nature/war requiring action to prevent/minimize loss of life and property.
- Com Ed is doing tree trimming in 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward between Prairie/Walter/Greenview/First.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Due to City budget meetings taking place on October 9, the next 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward meeting is TBD.

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**TO CONTACT DENISE**

- Please contact Denise at [drodd@desplaines.org](mailto:drodd@desplaines.org) or call/text (847) 514-6318
- Facebook is set up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward: [www.Facebook.com/DP3rdWard](http://www.Facebook.com/DP3rdWard) (or search DP3)
  - Twitter: @Denise Rodd
  - Web Site: [www.3rdWard.org](http://www.3rdWard.org)