



City of Chicago



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Office of the City Clerk

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Meeting Date: 10/11/2017

Sponsor(s): Emanuel (Mayor)
Reboyras (30)
Austin (34)
Ervin (28)

Type: Resolution

Title: Congratulations extended to Office Emergency Management and Communications' Dispatch Supervisor Chenetra Washington and Police Dispatch Marissa Leezer on recognition for excellence

Committee(s) Assignment:

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

October 11, 2017

TO THE HONORABLE, THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I transmit herewith, together with Aldermen Reboyras, Austin and Ervin, a congratulatory resolution regarding OEMC employees Chenetra Washington and Marissa Leezer.

Your favorable consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Mayor

A resolution



adopted by *The City Council*
of the *City of Chicago, Illinois*

Presented by **Aldermen Ariel Reboyras, Carrie M. Austin, Jason C. Ervin and**
Mayor Rahm Emanuel on **October 11, 2017**

Whereas, The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International is the world's oldest and largest organization of public safety communications professionals and supports the largest U.S. membership base of any public safety association; and

WHEREAS, Every year, the Illinois Chapter of APCO presents awards to public safety communications personnel who have demonstrated the highest levels of personal and professional conduct and performance in the line of duty throughout the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, APCO selected Chenetra Washington, Supervising Police Communications Operator at the City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management & Communications (OEMC), as the award recipient for 2017 Supervisor of the Year; and Marissa Leezer, Police Communications Operator II at OEMC, as the award recipient for the 2017 Telecommunicator of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Chenetra Washington began her career with OEMC on October 24, 2005 as a police dispatcher, where she worked for ten years before being promoted in 2015 to supervisor, the position she currently holds; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after her promotion, Chenetra's supervisory and crisis management skills were put to the test when one of her dispatchers received a call from an agitated man threatening to shoot himself and any officer who responded to the call. After alerting the Chicago Police Department to the threat, Chenetra remained on the line with the caller, never giving up hope that the situation could be resolved peaceably. Following two tense hours of negotiation between the caller, Chenetra, and the responding officers, Chenetra was able to convince the caller to walk outside and calmly surrender himself to the police; and

WHEREAS, Never content to rest on her laurels, Chenetra continues to set a positive example for her fellow co-workers by mentoring new supervisors and guiding them through their daily responsibilities. During her free time, Chenetra helps the less fortunate

WHEREAS, Never content to rest on her laurels, Chenetra continues to set a positive example for her fellow co-workers by mentoring new supervisors and guiding them through their daily responsibilities. During her free time, Chenetra helps the less fortunate by organizing food drives for the homeless and delivering homemade sandwiches, snacks, and beverages to needy persons throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, Marissa Leezer began her career with OEMC in May 2001 as a police dispatcher. She currently works from 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM, one of the busiest shifts for a dispatcher, in Zone 10, one of the most active dispatch zones in the City; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure with OEMC, Marissa coordinated the City's response to more than 620 calls for shots fired and over 60 incidents involving a person being injured by gunfire; and

WHEREAS, Despite the stress, chaos, and emotional struggle of working on an active shift in an especially active zone, Marissa has taken only two sick days during her sixteen years of service; and

WHEREAS, Widely admired for her tenacity, positive demeanor, and ability to brighten spirits and boost morale, Marissa often brings snacks or lunches to her co-workers during their busy shifts; and

WHEREAS, Marissa's dedication to her job and to public safety was recognized in 2016, when she received OEMC's Team Performance Award for managing and coordinating a crime scene involving a police officer who was shot; in 2012, when she was recognized for her efforts during the NATO Summit in Chicago; and in 2010, when she received an Honorable Mention for her astute response during an incident involving an Illinois State Police chase from a Chicago expressway into the City's crowded streets; and

WHEREAS, Chenetra Washington's and Marissa Leezer's unerring professionalism, dedication to their jobs, and willingness to always treat others with dignity and respect are truly exemplary; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and Members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled this eleventh day of October, 2017, do hereby extend our congratulations to Chenetra Washington, who was recently named APCO's Supervisor of the Year for the State of Illinois, and to Marissa Leezer, who was recently named APCO's Telecommunicator of the Year for the State of Illinois; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be presented to Chenetra Washington and Marissa Leezer, and placed in their respective personnel files, as a sign of our appreciation and gratitude for their exceptional service to the City of Chicago.



Ral Emanuel
MAYOR

Andrea M. Valencia
CITY CLERK