

Clerk Valencia 2018 Budget Statement

CLERK: Thank you, Chairman, for inviting me here today. I am humbled that I sit before you to be on this side of the Council as opposed to many years on the other side of this dais. It's truly a great honor for me to be here in City Council and the Committee on Budget and Government Operations.

Today I am joined by my deputy Chief Operating Officer Cory Thames; Jorge Ramirez, also from our Operations team and the Supervisor of our Investigations Unit; Marion Linton, Director of Data Services, Joseph Remiasz, Director of Audit and Verification and Amada Fitzsimmons, Administrative Coordinator, both from our Finance and Administration team; Chief Legal Counsel, Natashee Scott; her deputy Helena Wright; Chief of Policy, Tonantzin Carmona and her deputy, Luis Roman; Chief External Relations Officer, Kate Le Furgy; and her deputy, Monique Mervin; Chief Technology Officer, Eric Vazquez; our Managing Editor, Peter Polacek; and our head of Intergovernmental and Community Affairs, Lamar Brown.

In the well next to me are my Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer, Kathryn O'Connell; Deputy Clerk, Rodrigo Carrillo and Chief Administrator and Finance Officer, Charles Watkins.

My entire statement has been entered into the record. I look forward to discussing the great work of our office and your consideration of our budget request.

ENTERED INTO THE RECORD: I want to first say that I am so thankful to all of you today for working with me and my team during the past 9 months since I came into office. Government works best when we all work together and your guidance and kindness has been so important to me. I am grateful for your continued collaboration with me and my team.

I'd also like to take a moment and thank the many City departments that have helped me and my team get acclimated in my first year, including the Mayor's Office, 2FM and the Departments of Procurement Services, Budget and Management, and Human Resources. I'd also like to thank the Department of Police, Chicago Transit Authority and Chicago Public Library for partnering with us on the Municipal ID program which I will speak to more at length later in these remarks.

Since I took office in January, I have focused my efforts on building my team, learning the ropes of one of the largest offices in the City and mastering the ins and outs of a business that is projected to bring in \$130 million this year. I wanted to ensure a smooth transition and provide uninterrupted services for the 1.2 million residents that visit our office annually.

Over the past 9 months, I have also spent time hosting more than 40 roundtables across the city with residents, advocates, businesses and community members to understand how to best serve our City's residents through my role as City Clerk.

Through these conversations and getting a better understanding of our office, I have made it my mission to create more access to local government for all of those who reside in this great city.

Building upon the work and innovation of the previous administrations, our team has identified areas for improvement and efficiencies across our office functions from the Council Division to data services that will create access for all Chicagoans to many of the services and information they need most. In turn, it will also make it easier for residents to comply with the law.

In our council division, we have begun a council modernization initiative to bring City Council into the 21st century. We are reviewing our legislative management software to make it easier to navigate and installing a new encoder to create more access for viewers to watch Council meetings on their mobile devices and across web browsers. Additionally, we are creating legislative templates to make it easier to submit and upload routine legislation.

In our data services team, we are looking to make the rules for stickers easier to understand therefore making government simpler and less confusing for everyone.

Across our entire office, we will pilot a smartphone application for the purpose of providing residents increased, on-demand access to the vast amounts of information our office provides.

And lastly, but certainly not the least, we are getting ready to roll out the Municipal ID program with our pilot set to launch in December where we will be testing out the card technology. This exciting new initiative will create access for thousands of Chicago residents – from being able to open a bank account to getting a discounted entry fee to a local museum to having a library, government issued ID and transit card in one to providing an opportunity for an ID after being released from prison.

This is just the beginning. Over the next 9 months, I look to build upon this idea of creating access for all Chicagoans and hearing your ideas on how we can make government inclusive of all of our city's residents. I look forward to our continued work together for the many months to come.