

Good morning. I'm City Clerk, Anna Valencia.

With me, I have:

- Kendra Thomas, Chief of Administration and Finance

In the Commissioner's Box I have:

- Kathryn O'Connell, Chief of Staff and Deputy City Clerk
- LaWanda Crayton, Chief Technology Officer
- Hollis Williams, CEO, EKI
- Riley Bowlin, Chief Operating Officer
- Michelle Levar, Chief Legal Counsel
- Luis Fuentes, Director, City Key
- Diana Martinez, Chief of Communications and External Affairs
- Peter Polacek, Managing Editor, City Council Journal
- Jorge Ramirez, Deputy Chief Operating Officer
- Marion Linton, Manager of Data Services

Thank you, Chair, for having me today.

This year, the Office of the City Clerk continued to find ways to be a part of the solution as Chicago faces unexpected challenges. Grounded in the principles of equity, accessibility, openness and innovation, we've made strides in uplifting some of our most vulnerable residents, increasing access and transparency in government while being more environmentally responsible, providing more options for obtaining services, and improving customer experience.

As many of you are aware, the CityKey is a first step for many in need of a turning point such as those fleeing from a domestic violence situation, people reentering their communities after being released from the criminal legal system, those experiencing homelessness, new arrivals, and even our young people all benefit from access to a free government-issued ID. One of the ideas behind the creation of the CityKey program is the dignity and humanity that come with having a government-issued ID. We wanted to ensure the program was always accessible to every Chicago resident, and we continue into year 6 of the program making sure that basic idea serves as our North Star.

Just this year we've helped:

- a person with visual impairment gain access to housing when he lacked the paperwork to get a State ID,
- an LGBTQ+ youth escape a homophobic household,
- a person experiencing homelessness sign up for help with substance abuse,
- and made it possible for our future football stars sign up to play in competitive leagues.

All of this while ensuring that the quality of the card remains by allowing participants to open a bank account, receive business discounts and access services, including housing.

So starting in August of 2022, when we began to see new arrivals being sent here from states like Florida and Texas we answered the call to service. And while it angers and sickens me to see human beings being used as political pawns, it is not the time to sit back and do nothing as more than 17,000 new arrivals are dropped off in our city. We won't solve this problem alone, but we're here to be a part of the solution, roll up our sleeves and get to work, serving this new population. With limited resources, our CityKey Team has gone above and beyond to do what we can in the face of this humanitarian crisis. I want to thank my whole team, and our delegate and sister agencies for working tirelessly to get as many CityKeys out as possible not just to our new arrivals, but to every Chicagoan.

While our Office steps up to the problems of today, we continue building for the future of Chicago through our Council Modernization efforts. We're not only establishing a footprint for a more transparent City government, we're also being more environmentally responsible by lessening the reliance on paper, and we're providing our team members a more efficient way to do their jobs. Last year, we made history by becoming the first major city to vote electronically. This year, with the support of internal and external partners, our Tech Team and City Council Division launched a robust legislative management system with tools built for Chicago that include:

- eSubmission for all Council matters,
- streamlined internal legislation management processes,
- and a new public facing site.

Their efforts open the door for Council members to legislate with ease, and the public to gain unprecedented access to the important work being done by this body. At the same time, we continued our Mobile City Hall initiative, bringing government services directly to communities across Chicago. We want to ensure that our services are in every community on Saturdays, and evening hours too, so that families don't have to take time off work or spend money to come downtown just to buy a city sticker. Now, they can do it in their neighborhood, at one of our 3 locations and online.

We also know that access stems beyond location, which is why we lowered the barrier to compliance with a commitment to programs like our Reduced Term City Sticker, No-Fee Veterans and Senior Stickers. All programs that are now permanent and available at our 3 offices as well as our Mobile City Hall events.

Thank you to my team for all of your hard work and dedication to initiatives built for Chicago. You've set the stage for so much more to come. And thank you to the City Council members for your partnership.

I'm happy to take any questions at this time.