



Mayor of Providence

Jorge O. Elorza

March 24, 2020

Honorable Members
Providence City Council
City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Sections 302(b) of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended, Section 7-15 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Providence, and R.I. Gen. Laws §30-15-12, I am this day appointing Clara F. Decerbo, of 98 Pleasant Street, Providence, RI 02906, to the position of Director of the Providence Emergency Management Agency, and respectfully submit the same for your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Jorge O. Elorza", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

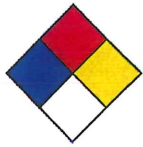
Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL

APR 02 2020

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Shawn Allen", is written over the text "THE SAME BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED".
CLERK



CLARA F. DECERBO, PhD

98 Pleasant Street, Providence, RI 02906

c.(802) 299-5339

clara.decerbo@gmail.com

EDUCATION

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

PhD in Marine Affairs

December 2018

Focus: Disaster Management, Emergency Response, Organizational Resilience

Title: *Resilient Response in an Age of Change: Emergency Response Organizational Resilience to Disturbance and Disaster*

Advisor: Dr. Robert Thompson

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

Graduate Certificate in GIS and Remote Sensing

May 2015

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

Master of Arts in Marine Affairs, Summa cum laude

May 2013

Focus: Hazard Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, Community Resilience

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT

Bachelor of Arts, Magna cum laude

May 2011

Major: International Studies, focus area: Middle Eastern History and Arabic

EXPERIENCE

Providence Emergency Management Agency, Providence, RI

April 2018–present

Deputy Director

- Perform essential operational leadership roles during disasters in the Emergency Operations Center, including the role of Deputy EOC Director.
- Communicate, coordinate, and lead emergency management activities with internal and external departments, agencies, and stakeholders including city, state, private, nonprofit, and federal entities.
- Direct and manage emergency planning activities including the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Emergency Operation Plan, THIRA/HIRA, and Hazard Mitigation programs.
- Serve as the Local Hazard Mitigation Officer for the City of Providence and lead all hazard mitigation efforts within the City.
- Manage multiple projects on tight schedules and provide leadership in a complex, high-stress environment.

National Disaster Medical System: Incident Management Team, Rhode Island April 2019–present

**U.S. Health and Human Services - Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response
Information Management Section Chief (GS-13)**

- Direct, manage, and coordinate the Information Management Section of the Federal Incident Management Team during activations, deployments, and responses in the field.
- Collect, analyze, and distribute information necessary to maintain situational awareness, support response preparedness, and mitigate risks and threats.
- Communicate critical information, situational awareness, and incident briefings to command staff, operational teams, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services Operations Center.
- Develop, implement, and revise Incident Action Plans, Situation Reports, Status Reports, and other plans as needed to effectively and safely manage National Disaster Medical System resources and teams deployed during major disasters.

CDR Maguire, Providence, RI

June 2014–April 2018

Emergency Management Planner

- Developed tsunami evacuation plans for U.S. Virgin Islands schools; produced GIS data and maps for evacuation planning.
- Coordinated implementation of the tsunami evacuation plans; planned and executed multiple school evacuation trainings and drills.
- Created and implemented Community Fragility assessment methodology; conducted Community Fragility and Unmet Needs Assessment for Office of Emergency Management, Larimer County, Colorado.
- Collected and analyzed Community Fragility data; produced technical writing for final assessment reports.

- Conducted coastal hazard, climate change resilience, and vulnerability assessments of coastal properties, communities, businesses, and critical infrastructure.
- Developed best practices guidelines for coastal climate change adaptation and hazard mitigation; produced public outreach materials.
- Assisted in the development, organization, project coordination, implementation, and evaluation of multiple projects focused on hazard mitigation, coastal management, community resilience, climate change adaptation, and stakeholder engagement.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Responder Resilience: Emergency Response Organization Leaders’ Mental Models of Resilience”
 - Northern European Conference on Emergency and Disaster Studies, Uppsala, Sweden (2019)
- Decerbo, C., (*In Prep*), Emergency Response Organizational Resilience: Identifying Factors for Success. *Natural Hazard Review*.
- Decerbo, C., (*In Prep*), Emergency Responders’ Mental Models of Resilience. *Risk Analysis*.
- Decerbo, C., (*In Prep*), Harnessing Emergency Responder Social Capital to Build Resilient Organizations. *Journal of Emergency Management*.
- “Rhode Island Green and Resilient Infrastructure Project (GRIP): Using Natural Landscaping Techniques and Designs to Improve Coastal Infrastructure Resilience and Stormwater Management”
 - Rhode Island Flood Mitigation Association Conference, Smithfield, RI (2017)
- “Changing Climate, Changing Behavior: Setting the Stage for Coastal Communities”
 - NCSE’s 14th National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment: Building Climate Solutions, Washington D.C. (2014)
- “Sea Level Rise Impacts and Coastal Community Adaptation: A Rhode Island Case Study”
 - Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) Conference, San Diego, CA (2013)
- “Rising Tides and Changing Attitudes: Community Adaptive Planning and Behavior Change”
 - University of Rhode Island Graduate Conference, Kingston, RI (2013)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXPERIENCE

- EMT-Cardiac, Exeter Fire Department - EMS, Exeter, RI (2015–present)
- Firefighter, Union Fire District, South Kingstown, RI (2013–present)
- EMT-Cardiac, Rhode Island Medical Reserve Corps, RI (2015–present)
- Firefighter, Hope Valley-Wyoming Fire District HAZMAT Team, Hope Valley, RI (2014–present)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- National Emergency Management Advanced Academy – Cohort 2020-2 (August 2020)
- Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Certified (January 2020)
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the-Trainer & Team Manager Certified (July 2019)
- American Red Cross CPR Instructor Certified (July 2019)
- “You Are the Help Until Help Arrives” Train-the-Trainer Certified (November 2018)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- **Turkish:** intermediate conversational speaking, reading, and writing
- **Modern Standard Arabic:** intermediate speaking, reading, and writing
- **Spanish:** conversational speaking, reading, and writing

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ArcGIS 10, 10.1, 10.2, ArcGIS Online
- Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Visio
- Advanced online libraries and database research
- Online shared document portals: SharePoint, EMPortal, Google Drive
- Emergency Management programs: WebEOC, Hurrevac, OneResponder