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News Release

Justin Kates, CEM, Sworn in as IAEM-USA President

Nov. 9, 2023 (Falls Church, Va.) – On Nov. 8, Justin Kates, CEM, took office as the 2023-2024 president of the USA Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA). He was sworn in at the President’s Banquet held in conjunction with the Annual Conference in Long Beach, California. Other sworn officers were IAEM-USA First Vice President Carrie Speranza, CEM, IAEM-USA Second Vice President Josh Morton, MPA, CEM, SCEM, and IAEM-USA Treasurer Walter English, III, CEM, VaPEM.

Upon taking office, Mr. Kates said, “The most important role of a professional association is to advocate for its members and provide them with a strong, unified voice to address the issues, challenges, and opportunities impacting their profession. I’m committed to ensuring IAEM-USA is at the table during conversations impacting emergency management and empowering emergency managers to tell their stories to secure the resources required for the important and necessary work they carry out daily within their communities.”

Mr. Kates currently serves as the senior business continuity advisor for America’s favorite convenience store, Wawa, Inc. In this role, he is responsible for architecting a new business continuity program for Wawa’s expanding footprint of over 1,000 stores with over 45,000 associates across Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, and Washington D.C.

Before Wawa, Justin served 17 years in government, most recently in the City of Somerville, Massachusetts, as its emergency management director. In Somerville, he was responsible for implementing the city’s inaugural comprehensive emergency management program and initiating the integration of their citywide 911 and dispatch operations. Additionally, Mr. Kates served over a decade as director of emergency management for two mayoral senior leadership teams in the City of Nashua, New Hampshire, and as a homeland security consultant for the State of Delaware.

Mr. Kates is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) affiliated with the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). He obtained a Bachelor of Arts concentrating in Emergency Management and Public Administration from the University of Delaware and a Master of Arts in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security. He also serves as treasurer of the National Association of Public Safety GIS (NAPSG) Foundation and is a FEMA National Advisory Council member.

IAEM-USA, the nation’s largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,800 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance, the Certified Emergency Manager program, annual scholarships, a comprehensive monthly newsletter, and more.

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