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News Release

Judson M. Freed, MA, CEM, Sworn in as IAEM-USA President

Nov. 23, 2020 (Falls Church, Va.) – Judson (Judd) M. Freed, MA, CEM, has taken office as 2020-2021 president of the USA Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA). He was sworn in during the Closing Session of the IAEM Reimagined Virtual Conference. Other officers sworn in were IAEM-USA First Vice President Carolyn J. Harshman, MPA, CEM, IAEM-USA Second Vice President Cathy M. Clark, MA, and IAEM-USA Secretary Sarah L. Moore, CEM.

Upon taking office, Mr. Freed expressed the importance of the profession of emergency management. “While I realize that in a single term no president can make sweeping change, I am determined to work to advance the profession of emergency management and rid us of the false label that EM is a ‘new’ profession that cannot identify itself and thus should be buried under some other agency. Emergency management is a separate profession and is critical to the public safety of the United States,” he declared. “It is time we stood up and made that clear in D.C. and statehouses across the nation.”

Mr. Freed, a Certified Emergency Manager with more than 30 years of experience in emergency management, homeland security, risk, resilience and continuity, has served since 2003 as director of emergency management and homeland security in Ramsey County, Minnesota, one of the nation’s most densely populated, large urban counties. He is a frequent presenter and lecturer on issues surrounding emergency management, homeland security, public sector risk and ethics in an age of terrorism, and he is an adjunct professor in emergency management at Idaho State University and lectures on community risk at the University of Minnesota.

Mr. Freed is very active in government affairs issues pertaining to the structure of homeland security, and the implications to and impact for local communities and local government. He has provided expert testimony before the United States Congress on several occasions, and to federal commissions as well as the Minnesota State Legislature.

He serves as vice chair of the Justice and Public Safety Steering Committee, Subcommittee on Homeland Security and Emergency Management at the National Association of Counties. Prior to his election as president of IAEM-USA, he served two terms as president of IAEM-USA Region 5 and served on various IAEM committees. He is past president of the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers and is a commissioner to, and treasurer for, the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). He has served on several workgroups and advisory committees of the executive branch of the federal government.

Mr. Freed holds a Master of Arts in Security Studies (Homeland Defense and Security) from the Naval Postgraduate School and a BA in U.S. History from the University of Minnesota. He is a graduate of the Joint Forces Staff College Homeland Security Planner program and the DeBecker Advanced Threat Assessment and Management Academy.

He has authored several articles on topics ranging from anti-research terrorism to catastrophic spinal injuries in collegiate athletics.

IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,000 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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