

# MICHAEL A. NEGRON

## EXPERIENCE

**Assistant Director, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO),**  
Chicago, IL  
*August 2019 – Present*

Number two official for Illinois cabinet-level agency with a \$1.4 billion budget and more than 260 employees responsible for issuing business attraction tax credits, overseeing grant programs for businesses, distributing federal workforce dollars, managing community development block grant (CDBG) and community service block grants (CSBG), and implementing federal Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Directly reports to Governor's Office in overseeing more than \$1 billion in COVID-19 emergency economic aid and infrastructure investment. Regularly briefs legislators, chambers of commerce, news reporters, and other stakeholders on DCEO programs. Led entire agency as Acting Director from May through August 2020. Representative accomplishments include:

- **Established \$290 million business grant program.** Using federal CARES Act funds, led team of more than a dozen in quickly standing up a program to offer business interruption grants to small businesses like restaurants, independent retail, and performance arts venues hurt by COVID-19 pandemic downturn.
- **Launched \$250 million local government support initiative.** Managed a team of more than ten staff in establishing federal CARES Act program to reimburse local governments for COVID-related costs.
- **Spearheaded development of business COVID-19 guidelines.** Led team of more than 10 in developing business reopening guidelines, in cooperation with Illinois Department of Public Health. Remained in frequent communication with elected officials, business associations, and businesses to discuss implementation and ongoing revisions.
- **Drove DCEO Rebuild Illinois Infrastructure program.** Spearheaded team of more than a dozen in managing DCEO's share of Governor Pritzker's \$40 billion 5-year infrastructure investment program. Developed competitive grant programs for projects in public infrastructure, economic development, broadband expansion, site improvement, life sciences wet lab development, and advanced manufacturing training academies at downstate community colleges. Managed a team that reviewed hundreds of applications and completed grant agreements worth more than \$150 million in first year.
- **Led development of support for cannabis social equity cannabis entrepreneurs.** Led 9-person team in establishing \$25+ million low interest loan program for social equity entrepreneurs seeking to enter adult use cannabis market legalized in 2019. Launched technical assistance programming to help social equity applicants apply for licensing and develop business plans.

**Candidate for 47<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman, Chicago, IL**  
*March 2018 – April 2019*

Campaigned for an open seat on the Chicago City Council. Met thousands of residents and raised more than \$570,000. On-the-record conversations with reporters and participated in more than 10 candidate debates. Reached run-off election as top two finisher in February primary.

**City of Chicago Mayor's Office, Chicago, IL**  
*Chief of Policy, June 2012 – February 2018*  
*Director, Innovation Delivery Team, November 2011 – June 2012*

Responsible for leading team of 12 staff in day-to-day generation and implementation of policy initiatives on issues including education, social services, housing, public health, and transportation, among others. Coordinated initiatives across city departments, sister agencies, and other levels of government. Representative accomplishments include:

- **Raising Chicago's minimum wage.** Spearheaded a working group and ordinance drafting process to establish Chicago minimum wage of \$13. Led team that conducted analysis to determine impact of potential wage increases on workers and businesses and negotiated final ordinance with City Council members.
- **Revamped housing laws to expand affordability.** Worked with Chicago Department of Planning and Development to drive development of affordable housing reform strategy including updating the city's affordable requirements ordinance (ARO), developing the city's transit oriented development (TOD) ordinances, and establishing a preservation framework for single-room occupancy buildings (SRO). Worked with Chicago Coalition for the Homeless to develop housing initiative focused on homeless Chicago Public Schools students using revenue from house sharing industry surcharge.
- **Established Mayor's Mentoring Initiative to serve 7,000 youth.** Developed 3-year \$36 million plan to provide high quality mentoring programs to more than 7,000 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade boys in Chicago Public Schools in 22 high homicide neighborhoods.
- **Established Legal Protection Fund to protect undocumented.** Drove establishment of \$1.3 million legal protection fund to provide legal counsel and rights education for undocumented residents following the election of President Donald Trump.
- **Developed regulatory framework for ride share.** Led development of one of the first regulatory frameworks in the country to govern rideshare industry. Served as lead witness before City Council during hearings regarding proposal.
- **Developed regulations of House Sharing Industry (Airbnb).** Drove development and negotiation of ordinance establishing regulatory framework for house sharing technology platforms like Airbnb. Developed 4% surcharge to support homelessness reduction programs.

**U.S. Department of Defense, Washington, DC**

*Special Counsel to the General Counsel, July 2010 – October 2011*

Reported directly to Jeh Johnson, who oversaw more than 200 attorneys within the Office of the Secretary of Defense and 10,000 attorneys across the Department, on special projects involving cybersecurity operations, treaty law, and other legal issues. [REDACTED].

**Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC**

*Special Assistant to the General Counsel, May 2009 – July 2010*

Prepared decision memoranda from OMB Director to the President explaining political, policy, and legal issues related to executive orders for his signature and coordinated interagency review.

**Congressional Oversight Panel (COP) for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), Washington, DC**

*Counsel to the Chair, November 2008 – May 2009*

Drove initial establishment of COP, reporting directly to Chair Elizabeth Warren on hiring, budget, and strategy decisions. Coordinated teams that drafted first six monthly reports to Congress.

**Obama for America, Chicago, IL & Manchester, NH**

*New Media Staffer, May 2007 – November 2008*

Supervised seven state social media directors in general election. Worked with state new media directors in developing strategies for use of blogs, e-mail, and video.

## **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY EXPERIENCE**

**United States Navy, Navy Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Program (NADAP),**  
Millington, TN

*Lieutenant, US Navy, Fleet Alcohol Policy Manager, December 2002 – August 2004*

Supervised two enlisted staff and coordinated with civilian experts in the administration of Navy's policy on alcohol abuse prevention and substance abuse-related separations.

**United States Navy, Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, Goose Creek, SC**

*Ensign, US Navy, July 2001 – November 2002*

## **EDUCATION**

**Harvard Law School**, J.D., June 2007

**The University of Memphis**, M.A. in History, December 2004

**Georgetown University**, B.S. Foreign Service in International History, May 2001

## **LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS**

**Bar Admission:** Illinois, October 2008.

## **OTHER RECOGNITION**

Crain's Chicago Business 40 Under 40 2015

Co-Founder and Volume 1 President, *Harvard Law and Policy Review* (national journal for American Constitution Society)