

**Richard L. Rodriguez**  
**Commissioner, Department of Aviation**



Richard L. Rodriguez was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Aviation by Mayor Richard M. Daley on April 17, 2008. As head of the Chicago Airport System, Commissioner Rodriguez oversees O'Hare and Midway International Airports.

The Chicago Airport System is a gateway for millions of travelers each year and serves a vital role in global commerce. Together, O'Hare and Midway provide direct and nonstop service to 236 cities worldwide, transport nearly 95 million passengers and ship more than 1.7 million tons of cargo each year. Chicago's airports generate nearly \$45 billion in economic activity and 540,000 jobs in the city, state and region.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Rodriguez, the Department of Aviation is committed to providing the highest levels of safety and security, innovative technology, and passenger amenities and service.

Rodriguez had previously been Commissioner of the Department of Buildings, where he managed a team who reviewed architectural plans, issued construction permits, and inspected buildings to support the safety and quality of life for the residents and visitors of Chicago. In his role as the Executive Director of the Department of Construction and Permits, Rodriguez reduced the timeframe for permit issuance by nearly 40 percent, while the volume of permit applications reviewed by the department increased by 10 percent. He successfully oversaw the merger of the Buildings Department and Department of Construction and Permits, producing efficiencies and saving the City nearly \$2 million.

As Managing Director of Operations for the Chicago Housing Authority, Rodriguez worked to improve the quality of life for public housing residents by managing the capital and operational maintenance of over 25,000 residential rental units and 12 administrative facilities during the strategic implementation of its Plan for Transformation.

At Chicago Public Schools, Rodriguez negotiated and monitored the economic impact of strategically sourced supply contracts utilized by over 44,000 employees resulting in a \$6 million savings.

A lawyer, Richard L. Rodriguez began his career as legal counsel in the Office of the Attorney General of Guam in 1997 and went on to become Deputy Director of the Disaster Recovery Office in the Guam Governor's Office.

In 1999, he became a field attorney for the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington D.C., where he was instrumental in ensuring timely access to logistical and life saving resources during response and recovery periods following natural disasters in Guam, Oklahoma, Nevada, North Carolina and California.

Rodriguez has Bachelor's Degrees in Sociology and Communications from Loyola University Chicago and a law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. He is a Metropolitan Leadership Institute graduate, Leadership Greater Chicago fellow, and board member of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese, Daughters of Charity Ministries of Chicago and DeVry University.