



NEW YORK CITY **OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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**OEM COMMISSIONER ODERMATT ANNOUNCES
EXPANSION OF DEFIBRILLATOR ACCESS PROGRAM**

*Lifesaving Devices to be Installed at City Hall, Borough Presidents' Offices,
NYPD Headquarters, and Dozens of Senior Centers Around the City*

OEM Commissioner John T. Odermatt today announced the expansion of the City's Defibrillator Access Program (DAP), an interagency effort including OEM, the New York City Fire Department, and the Mayor's Office. These life-saving devices will now be placed at City Hall, all five Borough Presidents' offices, One Police Plaza and senior centers around the City, further increasing the largest municipal public access defibrillator program in the country. Commissioner Odermatt was joined by Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields; Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz; Queens Borough President Helen Marshall; Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr.; and Staten Island Borough President Jim Molinaro.

"I'm proud of the coordinating role that OEM has taken in establishing this critical program," said Commissioner Odermatt. "The whole idea behind the Defibrillator Access Program was to place this vital equipment into as many City-owned and operated facilities as possible, with intent of saving lives. City Hall, borough halls, police headquarters, and senior centers are locations that are central to many communities and residents in this great City. By installing defibrillators at these places, we are helping to make New York a better place to live."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "Every year, about 350,000 Americans suffer from cardiac arrest. Unfortunately, preventive measures, such as proper diet and exercise, aren't always enough to insure that the worst doesn't happen. We believe that the City's Defibrillator Access Program, the largest in the country, will help to decrease the number of cardiac deaths by making these life-saving devices readily available."

(over)



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An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a device that administers a controlled electric shock through the chest in an attempt to restore the normal rhythm of the heart in the event of cardiac arrest.

AED's are designed to be operated by individuals with little or no experience in emergency medicine, however there are personnel assigned to AED-designated facilities who have been certified in CFR-D (Certified First Responder—Defibrillator). For ease of operation and enhanced reliability, each AED pack comes equipped with two rechargeable batteries, two sets of electrode pads, and a "fast pack," containing a mask (should mouth-to-mouth resuscitation be necessary), gloves, and a special antibacterial cleaner.

Numerous safeguards are incorporated into each defibrillator assembly, and it is very simple to operate the device. A microprocessor analyzes a person's heart rate, while an internal computer determines whether a shock is warranted or not. Easy-to-understand directions assist the user in placing the electrode packs on the victim's chest, and then administering the lifesaving shock. All medical control and quality assurance aspects of the Defibrillator Access Program have been supervised by the FDNY.

OEM has coordinated the installation of AED's in the following facilities:

- 70 at Parks Department pools, beaches, recreation centers and golf courses
- All Staten Island ferry boats and terminals
- Approximately 50 senior centers contracted by the Department for the Aging
- City Hall
- Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, Bronx, and Queens Borough Halls
- One Police Plaza