



RAHMBO: FIRST BLOOD - RAHM EMANUEL'S FIRST TERM, 2011

It's 2011. Problems in Chicago are reaching critical mass. Incumbent Richard M. Daley's six-term reign has come to an end when, in a historic move, he chose not to seek reelection. The proceeding election was one of the most contested in Chicago's history, with the most candidates to ever appear on a single ballot since 1919. Welcome to the stage, Rahm Emanuel. Fresh from Washington D.C. (so fresh, he was almost disqualified from the mayoral race), Rahm blows past the 20 candidates and wins the popular vote by 55%. With Obama as a friend, he is seen as the best option to garnish pull from the Capitol. Still, Rahm is a behind-the-scenes politician with a penchant for bad words and rough tactics now drawn out into the spotlight. And it's not all walks on the White House lawn. Pensions are woefully underfunded. The budget deficit is close to \$600 million and the city is out of easy fixes. Taxes aren't pulling their weight as Chicago's population shrinks. As former North Side Alderman Joe Moore remarked, "There are no more rabbits to pull out of the hat." Not only is the city in a jam, leadership is all but unified. There are 50 Aldermen, many of whom supported the former Mayor or those who Rahm has just beat to the finish. Not to mention the unions, many of which supported a slate of more diverse candidates. How will newly-elected Mayor Emanuel define himself under scrutiny, constantly compared to a 42-year legacy? Will the governing powers of Chicago unite in the face of these multitudinous challenges? And if not, who will be left standing when the dust clears?

BACKGROUND GUIDE

ISABEL O'MALLEY-KROHN CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to ChoMUN XXIV! We bring you the great city of Chicago under Rahm Emanuel. My name is Isabel and I'll be your Chair through these exciting times. I am a third year in the College studying Biology and Comparative Human Development. I was born and raised in Northern California and the transition to living in Chicago was part of what piqued my interest regarding this committee. At UChicago, besides ChoMUN, I volunteer at Comer Children's Hospital, write for the Triple Helix (a science magazine), and dance with some of our dance groups (RBIM, UBallet). In my free time, I cannot help engaging in political debates, especially about issues close to home. I am excited to see what ideas you have to fix a critical era of recent Chicago history. There will be opportunities to explore the diverse political and socioeconomic structures involved in decision-making on the homefront. I hope you have as much fun tackling these scenarios as we have had in preparing them. With that, I leave the city in your hands.

Sincerely,

Isabel O'Malley-Krohn

Chair, Rahmbo: First Blood - Rahm Emanuel's First Term

THOMAS WEIL CRISIS DIRECTOR

My name is Thomas Weil, and I will be one of your crisis directors. I am currently a junior at The University of Chicago, majoring in Political Science and GIS. I have done Model UN for 6 years, choosing to only help run conferences at UChicago, because I get more pleasure out of setting up and orchestrating simulations than I do participating in them. On campus I am involved in Model UN, Chicago Journal of Foreign Policy, and ultimate frisbee (B team). I have always had an interest in international affairs, public speaking, and policy, which has fueled my love for the United Nations and political debates. I hope that committee is a fun, rewarding experience for all of the delegates, and we can all improve our knowledge of history, politics, decision making, and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Thomas Weil

ALEXANDER VINAROV CRISIS DIRECTOR

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the start of Rahm Emanuel's first term as Mayor of Chicago in 2011, at ChoMUN XXIV. My name is Alexander Vinarov, and I will be one of your crisis directors for this committee. I am currently a junior at The University of Chicago, majoring in Environmental Science and History. On campus, I am an Under-Secretary-General with UChicago's high school conference (MUNUC), a member of our Model UN travel team, and the treasurer of the club tennis team. I hope that this committee will serve as a guide for exploring into a rich area of local politics and Chicago history. Having grown up in Chicago (not the suburbs), I have always had a keen interest in local government and the actions of my former mayor (Rahmbo himself), and I cannot wait to share this passion with you all over the course of the conference. This is a unique opportunity on the Model UN circuit to truly experience the inner-workings of a major American city, and I look forward to seeing how you all work towards securing Chicago's future for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Alexander Vinarov

Crisis Director - Rahmbo, First Blood: Rahm Emanuel's First Term

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

OMAR BATTISHA, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL