

Record	40
Presentation Title:	The Power of Partnerships: Lessons from a Citywide Cyber Incident
Type of Presentation	Single Presenter
Intended Audience	All Conference Attendees
Presentation Abstract	<p>In 2025, the City of Saint Paul faced a significant ransomware incident that threatened essential municipal functions across the enterprise. As the Emergency Communications Center VPN was disabled, impacts extended into public safety systems, including Computer-Aided Dispatch connectivity, Mobile Data Terminals, and station alerting pathways. At the same time, payroll, permitting, internal communications, and other network-dependent services were at risk.</p> <p>The City activated its Emergency Operations Center, executed a controlled network shutdown, and transitioned to a whole-of-government response under Incident Command. Emergency management, law enforcement, fire leadership, IT, state partners, the Minnesota National Guard Cyber Protection Team, FBI, and CISA aligned rapidly to preserve continuity of essential services while containing the threat.</p> <p>This session focuses on response coordination rather than recovery alone. Attendees will gain insight into sustaining public safety operations under degraded conditions, managing parallel tracks of containment and continuity, integrating Guard and federal partners, and leveraging intelligence and information sharing. This case study demonstrates how governance, trust, and pre-established partnerships protect communities when digital infrastructure is compromised.</p>
Indicate up to 3 learning objectives that will be presented:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain how a municipal cyber incident activates emergency management structures and public safety command decision-making. 2. Identify coordination strategies to sustain law enforcement, fire, and essential city services under degraded cyber conditions. 3. Apply partnership-driven response models that integrate SLTT, Guard, and federal partners during high-consequence cyber incidents.
Speaker Name:	Jaime Wascalus
Speaker Title:	Director and Chief Information Officer
Speaker Organization Name:	City of Saint Paul
Speaker 2 Name:	Rick Schute
Speaker 2 Title:	Emergency Management Director
Speaker 2 Organization:	City of Saint Paul
Speaker Bios 100 word maximum, per bio. Multiple BIOS can be entered. Separate	<p>Jaime Wascalus</p> <p>Jaime Wascalus is Director and Chief Information Officer for the City</p>

BIOS with each speaker's full name leading each bio section.	<p>of Saint Paul. She leads citywide cybersecurity, technology strategy, and digital modernization efforts. During a significant municipal cyber incident, she partnered closely with Emergency Management and public safety leadership to coordinate response operations, executive decision-making, and intergovernmental engagement.</p>
	<p>Rick Schute</p> <p>Rick Schute serves as Director of Emergency Management for the City of Saint Paul. He leads preparedness, response, recovery, and continuity coordination across municipal departments and with state and federal partners. He integrates cybersecurity into emergency management doctrine and response operations, emphasizing governance, operational clarity, and interagency coordination during complex incidents.</p>