

Speaker 1 ([00:04](#)):

Welcome to 'Prep Talk,' the Emergency Management podcast. Find out what you need to know about preparedness. Get all the latest tips from experts in the field and learn what to do before the next disaster strikes. From the Emergency Management Department in the city that never sleeps. Here are your hosts, Omar Bourne and Allison Pennisi.

Christina Farrell ([00:27](#)):

Hello, and welcome to 'Prep Talk.' I am Christina Farrell, deputy commissioner for external affairs at New York City Emergency Management.

Allison Pennisi ([00:36](#)):

And I'm Allison Pennisi, and you are our listeners. And as always, we thank you for joining us. We want you to come back as often as you can so feel free to listen to 'Prep Talk' on your favorite podcast provider. You can also follow us on social media, on our Twitter [@nycemergencymgt](#), Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and much more.

Christina Farrell ([00:57](#)):

Today we are going to turn the tables and interview Omar Bourne, our outgoing press secretary. Omar has been a co-host of 'Prep Talk' since its inception and the driving force of so many creative and innovative projects here at New York City Emergency Management over the past six and a half years. Who else would cold-call former mayor David Dinkins and get him to agree to participate in a public service campaign advising seniors how to stay cool during extreme heat, or create a winter weather PSA featuring a standup comedian? While Omar will be missed, we are excited to see what he does in his next chapter and to learn a little more about him today. Omar, please tell us about your path to New York City Emergency Management.

Omar Bourne ([01:42](#)):

Thank you Christina, Allison, for having me. It feels weird being on the other side of this so oh how the tables have turned, but yeah, I guess the question, did I choose emergency management or did emergency management choose me? I guess it's the former, I chose emergency management. Prior to this job, I worked in a newsroom. I had studied journalism in college and my first job post-college was at one of the local TV stations here in New York City. It was a fulfilling experience. I was able to gain valuable knowledge about the industry. So after a while, I decided that I wanted to expand my professional experience and skillset, and I started job hunting.

Omar Bourne ([02:28](#)):

I knew I wanted to stay in the media relations and public affairs space because that aligned with my skillset. And so I saw the opening at Emergency Management and I knew that it was a job where I could be successful and grow professionally. I will admit, I didn't know much about the field of emergency management, but I understood that my skills and writing and editing and media relations would translate and then I could learn the technical aspects of the job.

Allison Pennisi ([02:59](#)):

So even though you were new to this field, joining us as deputy press secretary in 2014, I would really love to know, how did the role itself match with your expectations when you first joined the agency?

Omar Bourne ([03:13](#)):

So I can say that it could be overwhelming just stepping into a new role, especially in government when you guys have so many acronyms that you have to learn and people love to use the jargon and the acronyms in news. I remember I started in December of 2014 and one of the first activations we had was a snow storm, obviously. It was December. And people were talking about "Disney" and I'm like, what does Mickey Mouse have to do with snow storms here in New York City? What is Disney? Come to realize that DSNY is the acronym for the Department of Sanitation, New York. So D-S-N-Y, the Sanitation Department. So that to me was hilarious. This was like, what on Earth is this DSNY that people are talking about? And what does it have to do with snow operations? So DSNY was the Sanitation Department. So there was a lot to learn obviously, but there were people around me, Christina, Allison, Nancy, and Nancy was my supervisor at the time, who would put me in situations where I could have early success in my role.

Omar Bourne ([04:26](#)):

And so having those people allowing me to thrive and I work to my strengths in writing, producing new stories centered around emergency preparedness, and those were the quick wins that gave me the confidence to understand that my skillset was valuable and that even though I might not have known the jargon and the acronyms, that I would still be able to contribute. So those experiences really helped to allay my doubts. And from there, the sky was the limit. And I developed a drive for creativity. And as Christina mentioned earlier, that birthed some of the projects like the PSAs with the comedian, working with Mayor Dinkins, the comic book with Ready Girl, this podcast, et cetera. So, I think being able to have people who put me in situations where I could succeed and succeed right away, really helped build my confidence to where I could use my personality. I could use my skillset and be successful while still learning on the job.

Christina Farrell ([05:38](#)):

Well-said. One thing I know within External Affairs and Emergency Management in general, obviously it takes a team. Nobody can work 24/7, even though sometimes it feels like we're doing that. So having the team atmosphere is also helpful when people come in or they're in a new role to get them up to speed. So I'm glad that worked out for you. And I know over time you've been a mentor as new people have come into press and communications and other areas to help them. I have to say too, after all these years with the city, some of these acronyms like "Fidney" for Fire Department, F-D-N-Y doesn't sit well with me.

Omar Bourne ([06:15](#)):

Yeah.

Christina Farrell ([06:17](#)):

But I guess it's part of the package.

Omar Bourne ([06:21](#)):

Yeah.

Christina Farrell ([06:21](#)):

So you mentioned DSNY and a couple other items. What are some of your other most memorable moments here at New York City Emergency Management? I know you spent a lot of time in the office, but you've also spent a lot of time in the field, both in New York City and in other parts of the country. So why don't you tell us about a couple of those?

Omar Bourne ([06:39](#)):

Yeah. I think here in New York City, and when you think about just Emergency Management and the office in general, there was really a family atmosphere. In terms of having a sense of comradery, people would take a few minutes to celebrate people's birthdays. Some of the guys and gals, we played flag football together. So, we worked hard and when we had the opportunity to play, we played. And so I think just having that atmosphere where you could, as I said, go out, play flag football, you celebrate people's birthdays, it really gave you a sense of comradery, a sense of rapport and it lended to that family atmosphere. When I think about deployments and field work, one of the most memorable experiences for me was being deployed with the urban search and rescue team in response to Hurricane Florence in North Carolina, back in 2018. And it was the first time that we had deployed a press person with the team during an emergency. And that's an unforgettable experience. Those men and women, they're heroes, and for me having the opportunity to see firsthand their heroics is something that I will never forget.

Omar Bourne ([08:07](#)):

And just being out in the field, the rain is pouring. There's torrential rain, there's high winds, being able to capture footage of those rescues was exhilarating. But the true story is this, that those men and women of US&R, they leave their families to go out, endanger themselves to rescue strangers. And there's no act more selfless than that. And for me to be able to experience that in real life and to share those stories is something that I will never forget. And it was funny because I think when the team saw that a press guy was going with them they were like, why are we having a press guy going with us? But I think once I was there and really able to walk them through sharing their stories, whether that was with the news media, over social media and help them to build their confidence and knowing that they're rescuing people, yeah, but then to be able to feel comfortable in telling this story to other people was as important. It was an experience that I will never forget.

Allison Pennisi ([09:24](#)):

I will say, I remember recording a couple of guest podcasts with some other individuals while you were out on assignment for that and then you and I sending messages to each other all throughout the week and the weekend at different hours, asking, how are you doing? Oh, everything is going great. The team is wonderful, giving us photos and capturing it and seeing it from that perspective and just from someone who wasn't there and knowing that you were down there with this team and doing such tremendous work, I was very proud to know that the US&R team was in great hands with you and helping them tell their story. And you're continuing to do that. So even though you're departing from New York City Emergency Management, would you be able to share with our listeners what your new role will be and what new skillset you're bringing with you?

Omar Bourne ([10:15](#)):

Yeah. So I'm going to be working for a PR firm here in the city working in media relations with communications strategy across multiple sectors. So that could include transportation, energy, public policy, land use among a number of other sectors. And so it's going to be a similar skillset, going to be

building relationships with media, maybe a little bit less on the emergency side, especially when it comes to snow storms and heat emergencies. But I think the skillsets are definitely going to be similar and helping companies in different sectors just build their relationship with media and work with those clients to build their brands.

Christina Farrell ([11:00](#)):

It sounds very similar and right up your alley. I'm hoping for your sake, that there's a couple less 3:00 AM calls going out to our water main break or a couple less planning press conferences at a salt shed when it's below freezing because we all know what Omar thinks about being outside in the elements, but it sounds like a great opportunity for you.

Omar Bourne ([11:23](#)):

In the cold elements, I will say. I don't have a problem being deployed during a hurricane or the summertime, but when we're talking about winter, any temperature below 65 degrees is a no bueno for me.

Christina Farrell ([11:46](#)):

That's pretty much three seasons in New York.

Omar Bourne ([11:49](#)):

Yeah, I know, right? I don't know how I survived this long. It's so funny because I remember I joke with Nancy about this all the time, my first ever deployment with Emergency Management, and as I said, I started December 1st, there was a crane incident on the West Side and I deployed. Nancy was there. We had a press conference and it was bitter cold. And my eyes are just running. They're bloodshot red. My nose is running as well. I have the tissues out. I was so uncomfortable. And then I looked at Nancy, I was like, "Nancy, I got to go inside." She was like, "Okay, that's fine." And it's so funny, I was like, she was probably thinking, how is this guy going to survive this job? I was so uncomfortable. I dreaded it. But we look back and we laugh at it. But yeah, I'm not one for the cold weather whatsoever. I have Caribbean blood. That's what it is.

Christina Farrell ([12:55](#)):

Yeah, no. Understood. I would say that maybe your Puerto Rico deployment also stood out for you because it was probably above 65 when we were down there.

Omar Bourne ([13:02](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Definitely.

Christina Farrell ([13:05](#)):

A lot of work to do. And we definitely saw an increase in your sweaters and your scarves during your time here. And we got you a big warm jacket. Right? So I think you definitely learned the lesson from that first deployment.

Omar Bourne ([13:19](#)):

Oh yeah. Double scarves even if it's only 65 degrees. Double scarves for me. Double scarves, double hat. You name it.

Christina Farrell ([13:27](#)):

For sure. You can always take them off. You can't add them in if you don't have them.

Omar Bourne ([13:30](#)):

Exactly.

Christina Farrell ([13:31](#)):

Right. So continuing talking about transition, which I'm not going to lie is a little sad for me and Allison, I have to say. We know that Omar will never be replaced, but obviously we have to have a press secretary here in Emergency Management. So what advice do you have for your successor?

Omar Bourne ([13:51](#)):

Yeah, I think I would say three things. One, don't be afraid to ask questions and you both can attest to this. I ask a lot of questions and I'm not shy about seeking out the information and just asking a question if I need clarification. And if I have to go back to the source, I go back to the source to get the information. And in this role, you really want to fully understand the information before you share it. So never be shy about asking. And I think it goes along with the saying trust, but verify. So you always want to ask the question, but you also want to verify. And so tip number one I would say is don't be afraid to ask questions. And then tip number two, I would say prepare. In Emergency Management, there are no-notice emergencies like building collapses, steam pipe explosions, et cetera.

Omar Bourne ([14:53](#)):

And then there are what we call notice emergencies, your snow storms, your heat emergencies. So you want to plan as much as possible before the notice emergencies, I would say, but just in general where possible, so that you're prepared for whatever occurs. Allison and I like to say on the podcast all the time, when it is not an emergency, planning is not an option. And the same applies, I think, for your emergency communication strategy. You want to be prepared. So you want to really talk to the players beforehand and build those relationships so that when the emergency occurs, you know who you're going to call and you have an idea of what your strategy is. So, you can't plan per se for a building collapse because that could happen at any time, but you can get to know your team at the Department of Buildings.

Omar Bourne ([15:55](#)):

You can get to know your team at the Fire Department, the Police Department. So that God forbid, if that type of an emergency occurs, you at least have a starting point in knowing who you're going to call and who you're going to coordinate with. And so that goes into preparation. And so for me, I never like to procrastinate. So as much as I can plan, I like to plan and that would be the advice. And then number three, I would say is to take care of yourself because this job will get stressful, as we know. So you have to understand your limits. You have to listen to your body, listen to yourself. As the song goes, Allison, listen to your heart. No, I'm just playing. But yeah, listen to your body. Don't try to be a hero. If you need a break, let your boss know, Christina, that will be. Just so you can recalibrate. If you need help, ask for it because your mental wellbeing is going to be paramount to your success.

Omar Bourne ([17:06](#)):

So you want to make sure that you take care of yourself. And then I guess this would be an add-on here. For me, I like my personality to shine through. So I would say in everything that you do, try to enjoy it. Obviously there's a part of it where you're going to be responding to emergencies and that can get difficult, but you still want your personality to shine through. You still want to as much as possible, enjoy what you're doing. And for me, any way that I could incorporate my personality that you can make people smile, even on the most difficult days, is something that I definitely try to incorporate within my work experience. So those three things. Take care of yourself, prepare, and don't forget to ask questions. Don't be shy about doing that.

Allison Pennisi ([18:06](#)):

I think it's safe to say, Omar, that you've planned for your success and continue to do so in your tenure. I've seen that firsthand, being a co-host on this podcast with you, working on a number of projects, both blue-sky initiatives, and even during crises. And we've often stopped to just have a laugh or just to crack a smile because we know that tomorrow is another day and having faith in ourselves, our colleagues and what's to come. So I certainly appreciate you sharing that advice with everyone. But as your journey at Emergency Management is coming to a close, I really need to know what will you miss most about New York City Emergency Management and working for the City of New York. I will accept you missing me and Christina the most, but I'm sure there's something else.

Omar Bourne ([18:54](#)):

I would just say the people in general. Yes, definitely will miss you, miss Christina. I just think the people in general because it's a family atmosphere. You guys are family. I'm not going to say you've been like family. You are family. Joking about calling people for information and them screening my calls. I would always say when I would call someone else in another bureau, for example, if I had to get information about a snow storm, or if I had to get information about what our plans were for an earthquake or something along those lines, I would always say I would have to call people at least twice because you call them and nobody would answer. And we would joke and say that people are screening my calls because as they like to put it, when press calls, it's never a good thing.

Omar Bourne ([19:50](#)):

So, just being able to joke about stuff like that. Those inside jokes, I'm going to miss. But I would say when you're able to see tangible results from the work that you do, and when you understand that you are making a difference, it makes the work even more fulfilling. So definitely the people and those inside jokes. No one will be screening my calls anymore. They'll pick up on the first call when I call now. And then just being able to understand that you can make a direct impact in other people's lives. I'll miss those.

Christina Farrell ([20:26](#)):

So speaking of family, I know for almost the past year now, a lot of us have been working from home, obviously due to the pandemic. And you've had to call my home phone a lot. And so I think you've spoken to every member of my family multiple times when you are trying to track me down because I know I can't screen Omar's calls. When he calls, I have to pick up. And so I think you've gotten to know my family through those phone calls.

Omar Bourne ([20:53](#)):

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Timmy knows me on a first-name basis now.

Christina Farrell ([20:58](#)):

Like hey, Omar, what's up?

Omar Bourne ([20:59](#)):

I know, right?

Christina Farrell ([21:02](#)):

So as we're taping this and in February, which is Black History Month, I wanted to ask you who's been your inspiration and also you and I have talked a lot and I know the events of the past year have affected you both personally and professionally. So I wanted to get your thoughts on that.

Omar Bourne ([21:20](#)):

Yeah. I think when you look at the civil rights movement, there are a number of people that come to mind. You could think of Martin Luther King and his words when he talks about darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can. And I think that's a strong reminder for us as individuals to be lights in this world. And right now the world seems like it's filled with darkness. So, what better way than to try to be that light to someone? And I will say it can be overwhelming. It can be frustrating because you want to be seen and not judged based on skin color or based on preconceived notions of who black people may be. It's definitely exhausting when you look at repeated injustices that are perpetuated in society. But I think I have to remember to try to do my part each day to be a light to those around me and in my circle of influence, to help people understand that you can't paint everyone with the same brush.

Omar Bourne ([22:34](#)):

So for me, it's the each one reach one effect, I guess, and just being a light to those people around me so that they can understand that you have to see each person as an individual and not as a race. When I look and reflect upon the events of the past year, they are disheartening and what's frightening for me is that as a Black person, you could do everything right, and probably still be subject to discrimination and the harrowing effects that could accompany it. My friends and I, we talk and we say that there's a manual really for growing up Black or being Black. And you look at when you get pulled over, what the protocol is, what you should do, remembering not to go into a store with a hoodie on because you'll probably be followed. Just certain things that you're taught as a young man growing up that you should remember. And so I think when we think about where we are today, we have to understand that we still have a long way to go in dealing with race relations in this country.

Omar Bourne ([24:01](#)):

And I think that has to be a shared responsibility. Can't only be on Black people to try to right the wrongs, I guess. So, I go back to being empathetic and just taking time to know each individual. And I tell people all the time, back when we were going into the office on a daily basis pre-pandemic, when I leave Emergency Management, or on my day off on a Sunday or a random weekend, you guys know me as Omar Bourne, press secretary, but someone else might just see me and see me as just another Black person. And so, I think we have to get to the point where we have to build relationships with each other, understand where other people are coming from and what their experiences are. And I think when you do that, and when you build relationships, you will understand that some of the stereotypes that you

may have, and even what's perpetuated over the airways might not necessarily be who these individuals are. So you really want to be understanding and empathetic of others.

Omar Bourne ([25:31](#)):

So I think building those relationships and being a light is something that Martin Luther King said years ago, but they still hold true to this day. And then on a more local level and on a more personal level, I guess I should say, I'd like to shout out my mother and my grandmother. They are the ones that raised me. They are the ones that have been there for me on a daily basis and have instilled the values that I hold true. And so apart from just looking at the overarching theme of Black History Month and the famous people, there are influences in our lives on a daily basis. And so for me, my mother and my grandmother are definitely two people who have influenced me in a positive way and my older brother as well. So shout out to them.

Allison Pennisi ([26:33](#)):

I think it's safe to say, and working with you over the last several years, that how you are personally has translated into your professional life, where you come in with a smile on your face, you want to get to know the people that you're working with. You also want them to understand what our mission is and what core values should be and what they should look like. So, from me to you, it's been such a pleasure working with you over the last several years, and I'm really going to miss being connected with you every day and working on different projects, or even just talking about what's going on in the world and in our lives and what we're doing to make things better. So thank you.

Omar Bourne ([27:15](#)):

Thank you as well. I'll miss both of you. I'll miss you too. I'm going to definitely miss the podcast, just the experience in general, but I really appreciate you guys.

Allison Pennisi ([27:28](#)):

Speaking with Omar Bourne, press secretary at New York City Emergency Management. We wish you all the best of luck. Rapid Response is up next. You know the drill, but before we get into Rapid Response, Omar, you've broken out into song a number of times on 'Prep Talk.' So I'm going to give you your last chance. Sing a couple of bars.

Omar Bourne ([27:51](#)):

Man, you're putting me on the spot. I don't even know. I sang earlier.

Allison Pennisi ([27:54](#)):

You did.

Omar Bourne ([27:56](#)):

So I think that might suffice. There's so many songs in my head at one time. People just, you say a word and it automatically just reminds me of a song. It's funny because people like to say my life is a musical. So I don't know. I will say what's on my playlist. Every day when I wake up to gain inspiration, I listen to Hillsong and Elevation, praise and worship bands. So, that's what gets my day going and gets me started. So maybe I'll break out in Rapid Response, but nothing's coming to mind right now.

Christina Farrell ([28:41](#)):

So see, Omar. I thought you were going to break out and sing a little "Family Affair" for us keeping with our family Emergency Management theme.

Omar Bourne ([28:48](#)):

What, from Mary J Blige?

Allison Pennisi ([28:50](#)):

Well, the original. [crosstalk 00:28:52].

Omar Bourne ([28:52](#)):

Are we talking about a different Family Affair?

Allison Pennisi ([28:55](#)):

No, Sly and the Family Stone is original. [crosstalk 00:28:57]

Christina Farrell ([28:56](#)):

No, Sly and the Family Stone. I'm old, Omar. You know that.

Omar Bourne ([29:00](#)):

Yeah. I don't even know that song, Christina. [inaudible 00:29:02]

Allison Pennisi ([29:06](#)):

Well, you're hurting my old soul, I'm just saying.

Christina Farrell ([29:09](#)):

All right, I will send it to you after. And I'm willing to bet that you have heard that song. [crosstalk 00:29:14] I will not sing it. I will spare all your listeners because I don't need to be the guest host that drops all your listeners. So I will not sing. If you don't know that song, you truly don't know it, you should check it out. I think you would enjoy it if you're in a throwback type of mood. I will say also one thing that people will miss is that, or maybe we'll find a way to keep it going, when Omar has to loop in all the public information officers from the different agencies because we have a summer heat coming or we have a snow storm coming, he's able to find a theme song to go with it, like "Summer in the City." Is that what it's called, "Summer in the City?"

Omar Bourne ([29:56](#)):

Yeah. "Feeling Hot, Hot, Hot" was another one.

Christina Farrell ([30:01](#)):

"Baby It's Cold Outside." And I think it got to the point where he started getting requests.

Omar Bourne ([30:05](#)):

Yeah.

Christina Farrell ([30:07](#)):

Like a YouTube link on there that we were able to have a little fun while we were working all summer and now working all winter. But that I think is an example of adding a little levity and taking a break while you're writing the seventh press release of the summer saying that it is hot once again.

Omar Bourne ([30:25](#)):

Yeah. And it's so funny because and again that's why I tell people just be yourself because not only did I get requests, but there are people who would just email me on the side and say, "Oh, this brightens my day," or "You make me smile every time you send these." So, just be yourself because you never know who you're influencing or what type of positive impact you're going to have. Don't be afraid to just be you.

Christina Farrell ([30:51](#)):

Agreed. You do you.

Omar Bourne ([30:54](#)):

That's right.

Speaker 5 ([30:56](#)):

It's time for 'Prep Talk' Rapid Response.

Christina Farrell ([31:03](#)):

Speaking of you, we have a couple of rapid response questions. You've been asking these for several years. So now you get to, and you've heard many, many answers over the years, so you get to maybe date them on your favorite. List one emergency item that you can't live without.

Omar Bourne ([31:18](#)):

If you guys know me, which you do, especially when we're in the office, there's one thing that I'm always walking around with, which I always misplace from time to time. And that's my water in my water bottle. So I would have to say water.

Allison Pennisi ([31:36](#)):

Yeah. I could count the amount of times that you've come over to my desk and go, "Have you seen my water?"

Omar Bourne ([31:46](#)):

Yeah. Oh man.

Allison Pennisi ([31:46](#)):

I'm surprised we didn't make that sign for you on your door to say, "Have you seen Omar's water?" Reusable bottle. Probably Omar's. Last seen, question mark. Okay. We've asked this question several times. I actually know what the answer is. So I'm going to make it a little bit more of a challenge for you. Your favorite TV show is Seinfeld. What is your favorite episode?

Omar Bourne ([32:11](#)):

Oh my goodness. You are correct. My favorite TV show is Seinfeld. I reference it all the time on the podcast and throughout life in general. To choose a episode, you really can't. You have the little kicks. Little Jerry Seinfeld. The episode where George was trying to get fired from the Yankees. I could go on and on. There are just so many Seinfeld episodes that are just great. Best show ever.

Allison Pennisi ([32:51](#)):

It is really great. Well, I'm going to give a quote to you because you're leaving. "Stick a fork in me, Jerry. I'm done."

Omar Bourne ([32:57](#)):

I'm done. A great one. That was a good one.

Christina Farrell ([33:05](#)):

I can't help but think of the one when they're on the beach and the whale has beached itself and George is trying-

Omar Bourne ([33:13](#)):

The marine biologist.

Christina Farrell ([33:14](#)):

[crosstalk 00:33:14] Exactly. I feel like there's an Emergency Management. We could get some page saying beached whale with marine biologist come across our Twitter feed or something. [crosstalk 00:33:27].

Allison Pennisi ([33:27](#)):

Easy, big fella.

Omar Bourne ([33:27](#)):

Is anyone here a marine biologist? It's just so funny, man.

Allison Pennisi ([33:34](#)):

Easy, big fella.

Christina Farrell ([33:36](#)):

Exactly. So as we draw to the end of your time at Emergency Management and the end of this podcast, we're going to ask you to sum up your work at New York City Emergency Management in one word.

Omar Bourne ([33:48](#)):

I would say "fulfilling."

Allison Pennisi ([33:50](#)):

[crosstalk 00:33:50] I will accept that answer. Yep.

Christina Farrell ([33:52](#)):

Exactly.

Allison Pennisi ([33:52](#)):

I will accept that answer.

Christina Farrell ([33:54](#)):

Yes.

Omar Bourne ([33:54](#)):

Yeah. And can I do a shameless plug?

Christina Farrell ([33:57](#)):

You may.

Allison Pennisi ([33:57](#)):

Go for it.

Omar Bourne ([33:58](#)):

For the listeners who if you still want to hear more, you can follow me on Instagram @thebournewriter. And if you want to hear people's inspirational stories, I do have another podcast. My personal podcast is called The Bourne Connect. It's on Apple Podcasts, Google Play, you name it, it's there. So if you guys want to tune in and still hear me chat with other people and share their inspirational stories, The Bourne Connect is where you can find me and Instagram @thebournewriter.

Christina Farrell ([34:33](#)):

Very nice. We will let you have the last word since this is your podcast, but I just want to say personally and professionally, that it's been a pleasure. I think I dare say I've learned as much from you, especially about Barbados, as hopefully you have learned working with us. And so, we want to wish you well. It's a little bittersweet, but I know it's exciting for you as you move on. And we, as we said at the top of this, we're really looking forward to seeing your next success and where you take it from here. So thank you for everything and stay safe.

Omar Bourne ([35:08](#)):

Thank you. I appreciate all the work that we've done over the last six and a half years. And we'll definitely keep in touch. I probably won't be calling you about snow storms, but I feel like the first snow storm or heat emergency post me working here, I'm probably going to call you and be like, "By the way, there's weather coming up, make sure you have that press release ready to go." So, I feel like I'll be calling you guys even after this.

Christina Farrell ([35:42](#)):

We will always take your call, Omar. Allison, last thoughts?

Allison Pennisi ([35:46](#)):

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Well, I would sing you a couple of bars, but I also don't want to lose any subscribers to this podcast. I think when you had told us that you were leaving, I'm pretty sure I did start singing a few bars of please don't go. But like I said before, I think we've learned a lot from each other. You've made tremendous contributions to 'Prep Talk' and to Emergency Management as a whole. And I'll miss talking to you every day, but I know you're not too far, so I'll make sure to put up the bat signal for you.

Omar Bourne ([36:14](#)):

I appreciate you guys. Lots of love.

Christina Farrell ([36:14](#)):

Right back at you.

Speaker 1 ([36:25](#)):

That's this episode of 'Prep Talk.' If you like what you heard, you can listen anytime online or through your favorite RSS feed. Until next time, stay safe and prepared.