



Statement of Oak Park Village Manager Carl Swenson
February 14, 2003

Following the Village's investigation into allegations of misconduct against Chief Tanksley, I have concluded that Chief Tanksley, by his own admission, engaged in inappropriate and unprofessional behavior with subordinate staff. This behavior is a serious violation of Police Department and the Village of Oak Park standards of conduct necessitating disciplinary action. In light of Mr. Tanksley acknowledging his transgressions, his dedicated service to the community, his commitment to undergo training and to never again engage in or condone such activity, I am allowing Chief Tanksley to continue as Chief of Police with the following stipulations:

- Serve a 45-day suspension without pay;
- Upon his return as Chief of Police, serve an eighteen-month probationary period; and
- Engage in appropriate training and counseling.

As to the process itself:

This investigation, which began in early January, included interviews with more than 15 individuals both inside and outside the department and an examination of various records and documents. The allegations of personal misconduct were raised through the proper channels within Village government. The investigation has been properly and fairly conducted by attorneys experienced in investigations of this kind, as well as by senior Village staff.

While the confidentiality of this investigation and its pace may have been frustrating to some, this is an extremely sensitive matter involving serious allegations. The interests of all parties have been served by going about this in a thorough, methodical and fair manner. There are professional reputations at stake and crucial issues of confidentiality to observe, as required by the personnel code, legal considerations and common decency. This is not just about Chief Tanksley, but also about the individual who made the allegations.

We have been in regular contact with Chief Tanksley and his attorneys during the course of this investigation, and his rights have been respected at all times.

During Chief Tanksley's suspension, Acting Chief Frank Kennedy will be in charge of the department, a position he assumed when the chief was placed on administrative leave at the time the investigation began. We have an outstanding police department and it will continue to serve the community with utmost professionalism and dedication.

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