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Deputy Village Manager to Take Arizona Post

Village Manager Carl Swenson announced today that he had accepted the resignation of Deputy Village Manager Rogene Hill who will be leaving the gray winter skies and chill winds of Oak Park in March for the sunny clime of central Arizona.

Hill, who has been with the Village for nearly eight years, has accepted an offer to be an Assistant Manager of the City of Avondale, a fast-growing community of about 60,000 residents some 20 miles west of Phoenix. Her resignation is effective March 18.

“Rogene has been a key member of my management staff and I regret having to say good-bye,” said Village Manager Carl Swenson. “But I understand and respect her desire to pursue opportunities for professional growth.

“Her selection for such an important post with one of the fastest growing communities in Arizona speaks directly to the high caliber of Oak Park’s municipal management staff. While it is always difficult to lose a key staff member, I understand why another community would want to hire Rogene or any other of Oak Park’s senior managers.”

Hill came to the Village in June 1997 as director of the Human Resources Department, subsequently moving to the Community Services Department in 1999. She was named Deputy Village Manager last year, a post that expanded her responsibilities to include oversight of building and property standards, business services and public information programs.

“It is with mixed emotions that I tender my resignation,” Hill said. “Working for Carl Swenson and the residents of Oak Park has been a wonderful experience. I have learned many valuable lessons about fostering a sense of community and providing excellent services to residents.”

Calling the position in Avondale “a career growth opportunity that I cannot ignore,” Hill said that many of her experiences in Oak Park undoubtedly will prove useful in her new job.

“Although Avondale is a much younger municipality than Oak Park, it is facing many of the same issues, including those related to planning and development, and the need to nurture diversity in all areas of community life,” she said. “I am sure that my experiences in Oak Park’s many community services programs was a factor in my selection.”

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Hill Resignation**

Oak Park's Community Services Department enforces the Village's Human Rights Ordinance and Fair Housing Policy, as well as promotes the Racial Diversity Policy. The department also encourages block organizing, community safety and multi-cultural training; oversees planning, historic preservation and housing programs; and administers several loan and grant programs, including the federally funded Community Development Block Grants and Emergency Shelter Grants.

Swenson said he would carefully analyze the current organizational structure under Hill before determining how best to proceed, a step that is in keeping with his pledge during the 2005 Village Budget discussions to examine all vacant management positions before making hiring decisions.

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