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**Building & Property Standards Director Recruited by Arlington Heights**

Village Manager Carl Swenson announced today that he had accepted the resignation of Building & Property Standards Department Director Nicholas L. Gadzekpo who has taken a similar post with the Village of Arlington Heights. His resignation is effective June 3.

Swenson said that while Gadzekpo's knowledge and experience will be missed, he has every confidence in the abilities of the building department's staff to continue to provide this important service to the community.

Stephen Witt, the department's number two executive, will serve as acting director until a decision is made on how best to permanently fill the director's post. Witt, who joined the building department staff in August 2003, currently handles many of the day-to-day management tasks, as well as serving as secretary to the Zoning Board of Appeals, a citizen group authorized by state statute to rule on zoning variance petitions, special use permits and appeals of interpretations of the zoning ordinance.

"I am especially thankful to Village Manager Carl Swenson who granted me the opportunity to serve here in Oak Park," said Gadzekpo who came to the Village in March 2001 from Norfolk, Virginia, where he was chief of the Division of Building Construction Services and Property Maintenance Bureau. "It is now time for me to move on, as it is in the best interest of my family, my future aspirations and personal goals."

Gadzekpo praised his Oak Park staff, calling them "superior and talented," attributes he said were essential in keeping abreast of the complex and unique construction challenges that face the Village and its older housing stock. He also credited the efforts of the citizen volunteers on the Building Codes Advisory Commission for their role in helping update the Village's construction codes with the latest international building and electrical standards, a step that earned the Village a high grade with the leading insurance rating organization.

In addition to administering the Village's construction and property maintenance regulations, the Village's Building & Property Department issues construction permits and inspects construction projects. The department also performs property maintenance inspections of multi-family buildings and exterior maintenance inspections of all structures in the Village.

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