



For Immediate Release: 11.17.05

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Village Manager Accepts Arizona Post

Village Manager Carl Swenson has announced that he will be leaving Oak Park to assume a senior management position with the City of Peoria, Arizona, a fast-growing community of 150,000 residents near Phoenix.

Swenson, who has been Village Manager of Oak Park since 1996, will become Peoria's Deputy City Manager for Development and Community Services. In his new role he will oversee the future growth and development of Peoria's 178 square miles, and be a key decision maker in the expenditure of a capital budget that is five times larger than Oak Park's entire budget. His last day in Oak Park will be April 7.

"Leaving Oak Park – the community where my family and I have chosen to make our home for nearly 10 years – is not something I do without careful thought and deliberation," Swenson said. "But this new post offers a tremendous opportunity for professional growth and a challenge that I simply cannot pass up. My family and I are excited about the possibilities."

Village President David G. Pope called Swenson's resignation a loss to Oak Park, but understandable in light of the professional opportunity.

"Carl has made many very valuable contributions to our community over the past decade, and we are grateful to have benefited from his services for this long," Pope said. "He played a pivotal role in laying the groundwork for our improved investment climate, helping us move beyond years of economic disinvestment. His diligent attention to rebuilding our finances and infrastructure, improving services and professionalizing Village staff have been key components of our enhanced quality of life.

"It is quite rare for a professional City Manager to remain in a community for as long as Carl has served Oak Park, and we see his longevity here as a real testament to both the strong quality of life that we enjoy, and the compelling professional opportunity that exists for the manager here in Oak Park. At the same time, my fellow Board members and I can certainly understand Carl's desire to pursue this exciting professional opportunity, and he will be greatly missed by us and by the entire community.

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"We also are grateful for the long notice he has given. Finding a new Manager of comparable caliber won't be easy and can't be done quickly. Carl's decision to continue as Village Manager until April will provide us with the time needed to conduct a comprehensive search and should help ease our transition to a new administrative leader."

Swenson said the willingness of Peoria's City Manager to allow him to give such a long notice was important to the decision to accept the new position.

"I care about this community, its residents and the people who make up the municipal organization I have led for the past decade," Swenson said. "I am fortunate to be going to an organization where the manager understands and respects my desire to make Oak Park's transition to a new Village Manager as smooth as possible."

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