



For Immediate Release: 02.14.06

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Village Board to Name Wiggins Interim Village Manager

Village President David Pope announced today that Deputy Village Manager M. Ray Wiggins will be named interim Village Manager at the Village Board's next regular meeting, Tues., Feb. 21.

The Village Board unanimously agreed Monday night on the selection of Wiggins to serve as an interim replacement for Village Manager Carl Swenson until a permanent Village Manager begins his or her term of service. Swenson is leaving in April to join the municipal management staff in Peoria, Arizona.

"As Interim Village Manager, Ray will bring to the position a broad range of experience, a real knowledge of the organization, a strong commitment to helping the Board realize the community's goals and an interest in supporting the Village Staff in their efforts to continue delivering vital services to our community," Pope said.

"My fellow board members and I have confidence that Ray will be able to help guide the Village through this time of transition. We are fortunate that he will step into this role, and we are grateful to him for his willingness to serve in this capacity."

Wiggins, 45, currently is a Deputy Village Manager, overseeing operations including the Police, Fire and Public Works departments. He has served in his current capacity since 1997. He came to the Village in 1994 from San Antonio, Texas where he had worked for seven and a half years in various analyst positions in the City Manager's Office.

In response to the announcement, Wiggins said, "I am humbled and honored that President Pope and the Village Board of Trustees have decided to appoint me as the interim Village Manager. Serving the Village of Oak Park is now and has been a career passion for me over the past eleven years.

"I look forward to working with the Village Board of Trustees to assist them in accomplishing their goals for the community during the interim period. I also look forward to working with the management team of the Village to assist them to continue providing the high level of service delivery to the citizens of Oak Park that our community deserves and has come to expect."

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Wiggins Interim Manager
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Wiggins holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies and Community Affairs from Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC. He also has completed graduate course work in Urban Studies at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, and has completed the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Executive Leadership Institute, studying at Howard University, San Jose State University, University of Louisville, Clark Atlanta University, Syracuse University and the University of Minnesota.

Meanwhile, the search for a new village manager is continuing. The firm of Bennett Yarger Associates, which specializes in executive searches for local, regional and state governments, public authorities, educational institutions, human services groups and advocacy organizations, is developing a position profile, will advertise for candidates, screen and review applicants, conduct initial interviews with potential candidates and make recommendations to the Village Board.

Pope said Wiggins has indicated that he does not intend to put himself forward as a candidate in the Village Manager search process, but is eager to help facilitate the transition of the new Manager once the selection is made.

For more information on the search process, call 358.55650 or email hr@oak-park.us

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