



For Immediate Release: 03.16.07

From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Tom Barwin
Village Manager
708.358.5770

Senior Chicago budget executive to be Oak Park's Chief Financial Officer

A deputy director in Chicago's Office of Budget & Management with more than 10 years experience managing large municipal operating budgets has been selected to be the Village of Oak Park's Chief Financial Officer.

Craig M. Lesner, who has been with the City of Chicago since 1997, will assume his new role as Oak Park's CFO on Mon., April 9.

"After an extensive search and careful selection process I am pleased Craig will soon be assuming the helm of the Village's Finance Department," said Oak Park Village Manager Tom Barwin in announcing Lesner's selection.

"He brings an understanding of the latest business models and hands-on experience analyzing the fiscal implications of the decisions we make on a daily basis, as well as long-term strategic decisions. Craig's experience, energy, knowledge and contacts will enable us to control our costs, while continually improving Oak Park as a great place to live."

Lesner was among a field of more than 50 applicants for the position, which has been vacant for several months. Ten applicants were interviewed by a team of Village Department heads and Finance Department staff led by Barwin.

In response to his selection, Lesner told Barwin he is very excited to be joining the Village's management team and helping maximize the return on taxpayers' dollars.

"While I expect to contribute a great deal based on my experience, I also expect to learn a lot from both my co-workers and the community itself on how we accomplish our goals," Lesner said. "From what I've seen, this uniquely diverse community has chosen to invest in itself in many ways. I welcome the opportunity to help Oak Park continue to be a great place to live, work and do business."

As a deputy director in Chicago's Office of Budget & Management, Lesner led the city's \$5.2 billion annual appropriation process that recently helped close budgetary gaps of more than \$100 million. He also was a member of the city's Cash Management Team and developed a performance measurement operations reporting structure that was adopted citywide.

-more-

New CFO
2-2-2

Lesner joined the City of Chicago in 1995 as a fiscal policy analyst, rising to the level of chief analyst before becoming deputy director. Prior to working for Chicago he was a development manager for Shorebank Corporation.

He holds a master's degree from the University of Chicago's Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies and bachelor's degrees in economics and political science from the University of Illinois Chicago.

As Oak Park's CFO, Lesner will oversee the Finance Department, which develops, maintains and administers all programs related to the accounting functions for the Village. In addition to ensuring accurate accounting of all municipal receipts and expenditures, the department also prepares the Village's \$140 million annual budget.

###