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From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Wayne Moran
Adjudication Director
708.358.5479

Oak Park to host adjudication conference on June 4

Representatives from 61 Illinois cities are expected to gather at Unity Temple in Oak Park on Wed., June 4 to learn about administrative adjudication, a program that allows municipalities to rule on local ordinance violations such as parking citations, rather than relying solely on the county circuit court system.

The statewide adjudication conference was designed with the goal of bringing together municipal officials to discuss how the process works and ways for communities to set up an adjudication program of their own, according to Oak Park's Adjudication Director Wayne Moran.

“Our hope is that we can show communities looking to start administrative adjudication the best way to shape the program at its foundation,” Moran said. “We want to be a resource other communities can look to for assistance in creating an effective, efficient process.”

In addition to providing important information for setting up an adjudication program, Moran said the conference also will provide a forum for administrations of existing adjudication programs to exchange information through seminars and workshops directed at refining and improving processes.

Moran created a similar adjudication event in Evanston in 2001, where he was the chief adjudication administrator before coming to Oak Park to set up the program here.

“Through the conference setting, Illinois communities can come together to discuss common problems in the adjudication process, and collaborate on effective resolutions,” he said. “Since Oak Park is one of only two communities in the state with both payment and appeal processes available online, we are uniquely equipped to teach others the best way to both initiate and administer an adjudication process.”

Oak Park launched its administrative adjudication program in January 2004 and has since heard more than 21,000 cases, including in-person, through the Village web site and through the mail. Challenges to citations involving local ordinance violations such as drinking on the public way, graffiti, loud noise and unsanitary conditions were added this year to adjudication process.

While a trip to circuit court for a parking ticket — or local ordinance violations — is no longer necessary for Oak Parkers, it remains an option to anyone not satisfied with a decision rendered in the adjudication process.

For more information on Oak Park's adjudication process or the June 4 conference, call 708.358.5479 or email adjudication@oak-park.us. Information on Oak Park's adjudication program is posted at www.oak-park.us/adjudication.

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