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From: David Powers  
Communications Director  
708.358.5781

Contact: Tom Barwin  
Village Manager  
708.358.5770

### **Tanksley earns certification from Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police**

Oak Park Police Chief Rick C. Tanksley has been designated a *Certified Police Chief* by the [Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police](#) (IACP), an honor that signifies he has met the highest standards of competency and conduct for his profession.

"Chief Tanksley's certification is a proud moment for the Oak Park Police Department and the community," said Village Manager Tom Barwin. "While those of us who have worked with the Chief have long recognized his skills and expertise, this certification publicly proclaims the breadth and depth of his abilities to a much wider audience, including his peers."

Illinois is the only state that offers a police chief certification program based on an extensive, legally validated examination process. The IACP program is designed to recognize those law enforcement professionals who excel in all facets of police chief functions. To maintain certification status, police chiefs must meet on-going requirements and apply for recertification every five years.

"The certification process was tough, but rewarding," Tanksley said. "It required me to examine everything I do as a police chief and how I do it. The pursuit of certification helped to make me a better police officer. Actually earning certification has given me a sense of accomplishment and pride, not only for myself but for the officers who make it possible for me to be the chief of such a great organization in such a great community"

Just to be eligible for consideration, Tanksley first had to meet the IACP's criteria for experience, education, professional membership and community involvement. He then had to demonstrate law enforcement command and executive experience, a solid educational background and active participation in professional and community organizations.

Only after meeting these eligibility requirements, was he allowed to proceed with the certification examination, which tests knowledge of managerial concepts, modern policing concepts, law and leading cases, and budgeting principles.

The final step was facing a panel of his peers, consisting of three active Illinois police chiefs whose questions helped evaluate Tanksley's skills in leadership, management, public relations, verbal communication and ethics.

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Police Chief earns certification  
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A representative of the IACP will be at Village Board meeting Jan. 5 to present the certificate to Chief Tanksley and explain its significance for the community.

Tanksley began his career with the Oak Park Police Department in 1984, rising through the ranks to become Chief of Police in June 2001. He holds a Master of Social Work Degree from the Jane Addams School of Social Work, University of Illinois Chicago, a Master of Science in Management of Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Concordia University, River Forest.

He also has participated in numerous executive training courses and seminars, including the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigations' National Academy and the Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety, Staff and Command.

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