



PRESS RELEASE

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POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL SIMO ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AND VILLAGE TO NAME DEPUTY CHIEF MICHAEL WEITZEL AS NEXT POLICE CHIEF

After a decade as the Morton Grove Police Chief and 44 years in law enforcement, including 34 years with the Village of Addison Police Department, Michael Simo has announced his retirement from the Village as of December 1, 2024. Chief Simo oversaw the Police Department becoming accredited as a Tier II Law Enforcement Agency by the [Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program \(ILEAP\)](#), an Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police program while also representing the Village as the current Executive Board President of the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force (NORTAF) and the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory (NIRCL). In reflecting on his career, Chief Simo shared that he was, “grateful for the opportunity to work with this great group of sworn police officers and civilian employees, as well as the Mayor, Village Administration and Board. I made many friends here and will always treasure these relationships.” Chief Simo considers his family his most significant accomplishment in life and plans to enjoy more time with his wife Nancy, his four adult children, and two grandsons in retirement. Mayor Dan DiMaria shared, “I want to thank Chief Simo for his long career in law enforcement where he spent the last decade with the Village of Morton Grove. Chief Simo was the catalyst for bringing significant and positive change to the Department with enhanced training, modern equipment, improved communication and community relations. Thanks to Chief Simo, the Department has improved beyond measure. On behalf of the residents and Village Board I want express our gratitude to him and wish him and his family well in retirement.”

Today marks the 129th anniversary of the Morton Grove Police Department. To continue the strong legacy of professionalism and service to this community, Mayor Dan DiMaria has announced his intent to name Deputy Chief Michael Weitzel as the Village’s next Police Chief as of December 2, 2024. When discussing the appointment of Chief Weitzel, Mayor DiMaria said, “It is with great pleasure that I get to appoint Mike Weitzel as the Village’s next Police Chief. In his capacity as Deputy Chief, he has shown an incredible aptitude for law enforcement and dedication to our residents. This next step in his career continues his journey as a dedicated public servant having previously served as a Specialist in the United States Army Reserve followed by 24 years as a sworn member of the Morton Grove Police Department. We are lucky to have Chief Weitzel continue the improvement started by Chief Simo for this great Department.”

Deputy Chief Weitzel has been with the Police Department since 2000 having held several roles in the Police Department including Police Officer, Police Sergeant, Police Commander and since 2018 serving as the Deputy Chief of Police. Prior to joining the Village, Deputy Chief Weitzel served as a Specialist for six years in the United States Army. Deputy Chief Weitzel has an MBA from the University of Southern Indiana, a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice leadership from Loyola University, and attended the National Academy through the FBI. Upon hearing of the appointment of Deputy Chief Weitzel, Chief Simo shared, “I am very happy for and proud of Deputy Chief Weitzel for being chosen as the next Chief. I am confident that he will do a great job and serve the Police Department and the Village well.”

Deputy Chief Weitzel’s impact within the Department has been far-reaching. He developed the Department’s Defensive Tactics Program and has overseen Use of Force Training Program. Deputy Chief Weitzel has also played a key role in the creation of the Department’s Policy Manual, authoring many of the policies that guide the Department’s current operations. Additionally, Deputy Chief Weitzel was a

founding member of the NORTAF Incident Management Assistance Team, contributing to regional crisis management efforts. Outside of his dedicated career to law enforcement and service, Deputy Chief Weitzel participates in endurance events and coaches youth sports teams. He is blessed with three children and a supportive wife, Monica, who share in his passion for service and community involvement.

When asked about taking on the responsibility of Police Chief, Deputy Chief Weitzel stated, "I am honored to step into this role and continue the mission of making the Morton Grove Police Department a cornerstone of safety and service in our community. I look forward to working alongside some of the finest police officers and civilian employees, committed to serving with integrity, respect, and dedication to the well-being of every resident."

Village Administrator Chuck Meyer expressed his thanks to Chief Simo for his years of service and professionalism that he brought into work every day and his excitement in having Deputy Chief Weitzel join the exemplary group of Department Directors dedicated to the Village of Morton Grove.

Chief Simo will be recognized at the November 26, 2024 Village Board Meeting at 7:00 pm and Deputy Chief Weitzel will be formally sworn in as the Police Chief at the December 10, 2024 Village Board Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Issued by: Charles L. Meyer, Village Administrator
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