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PRESS RELEASE

DATED: NOVEMBER 5, 2021

MORTON GROVE APPOINTS NEW FIRE CHIEF

Morton Grove Mayor Dan DiMaria is pleased to announce that at the November 8, 2021 Village Board meeting, he will appoint Ralph M. Ensign as the next Fire Chief. Ensign is a 43-year veteran of the Illinois fire service. He recently served as Fire Chief in the Village of Glenview from 2014 to 2019. Ensign holds a bachelor's degree in Fire Service Management from Southern Illinois University and holds the highest certification from the Illinois State Fire Marshal as a Chief Fire Officer. He also continues to serve as an assessor/evaluator for the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Mayor DiMaria chose Mr. Ensign based on his outstanding qualifications, his community-based team approach to fire, EMS and disaster mitigation and response, his commitment to maintain the department's excellent reputation, and his focus on improving community outreach and customer service. "Ralph has a stellar reputation of leading by example. He sets high expectations for himself and the organizations he has led." noted DiMaria. "I am confident that he will be an excellent mentor and leader for the exceptional men and women of our fire department."

Ensign was selected from a field of 21 highly qualified candidates who were evaluated by a search group led by the consulting group of Gov HR and a team of Village leadership. Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski stated that while several of the candidates were impressive, the assessment team recommended Mr. Ensign because of his outstanding experience in the Illinois fire service, his diverse background in community risk reduction and emergency planning and his collaborative community management style.

Chief Ensign is grateful to the municipalities in which he has served over the past 43 years including Glenview, Highland Park, Northfield and Winnetka. "I am well acquainted with the Morton Grove Fire Department by virtue of their unsurpassed reputation for aggressive response and professionalism." Ensign stated. "I look forward to getting to know the members of the department and community better as we make the transition of leadership. I would like to thank Mayor DiMaria and the Village Board for the trust they have placed in me, and also District Chief Dan Gallagher for his efforts as Interim Fire Chief. Morton Grove is fortunate to have a great fire department and it is my goal to make it even better."

For more information, contact the office of the Mayor, 847-663-3010

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