



# PRESS RELEASE

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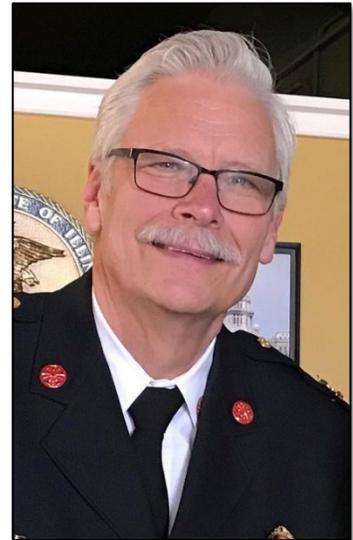
## **Chief Michael Hansen Announces Retirement from the Lincolnwood Fire Department**

LINCOLNWOOD, IL - After 32 years of dedicated service, Lincolnwood Fire Chief Mike Hansen has announced his retirement from the Lincolnwood Fire Department effective July 31, 2022. Chief Hansen has been serving the Lincolnwood Fire Department since 1990 and his contributions can be seen throughout the Lincolnwood community and the broader field of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

“Chief Hansen has served the Village of Lincolnwood for 32 years and his legacy will be felt for generations to come,” Mayor Jesal Patel said. “His contributions have been instrumental in shaping our Fire Department into what it is today. He is unquestionably leaving the position of Lincolnwood Fire Chief with large shoes to fill.”

“We are very grateful for Chief Hansen’s outstanding leadership, guidance, and expertise in the fields of Fire and EMS,” Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura said. “As Fire Chief, he authored the Village’s first Emergency Operations and Mitigation plans, fostered strong community relations, and promoted innovation within the Department. The Village thanks Chief Hansen for his years of dedicated service to the community and wishes him well in retirement.”

In 1989, the City of Chicago notified the Village that they would no longer provide fire protection services to the Village. The news prompted the Village to establish the Fire Department as it exists today and by the following year, Chief Hansen was placed at the helm.



Throughout Chief Hansen's tenure, he worked to enhance the safety of firefighters and the community through collaboration, community partnerships, and technology and equipment improvements. In 1993, Chief Hansen was a founding member of the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA) and was responsible for the development and instruction of the Academy's initial fire officer training program. To this day, NIPSTA acts as an intergovernmental agency that offers a regional, state-of-the-art safety training facility for municipalities and fire protection districts throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

Chief Hansen was also a fierce advocate for the Fire Department and the broader field of Fire and EMS. He secured over \$1 million in Assistance to Firefighter Grants for fire safety equipment and personnel training in Lincolnwood and served on the State of Illinois' EMS Advisory Council for over 20 years as both a member and the chairman. Chief Hansen's input on the Council led directly to a number of improvements throughout the profession, including the adoption and creation of the State's first-ever Do-Not-Resuscitate form.

In addition, Chief Hansen has spearheaded several innovative initiatives throughout the community, with the most notable being the establishment of a Fire Sub-Station in Lincolnwood's assisted living facility, The Carrington. As a result of this collaboration, which is among the first of its kind in the nation, paramedic staff is on-site daily from 6:30 pm to 6:30 am.

As Chief Hansen prepares for his retirement, the Village has been taking the necessary steps in filling the position of Fire Chief. Meanwhile, the management of the Village's contract with Paramedic Services of Illinois (PSI) and the daily management of the Fire Department's frontline staff will be overseen by Deputy Fire Chief Bryan Pierce.

"I am so proud of the men and women who comprise the Lincolnwood Fire Department and their dedication to serving the community," Chief Hansen said. "I believe strongly that the work they do has positively impacted the lives of our residents and businesses throughout the Village, and after serving here as Fire Chief for over 30 years, I will sincerely miss working for this community. While the community and profession of fire and EMS continue to change at a rapid pace, especially following the COVID-19 pandemic, I remain optimistic about what the future has in store and the Village's and Department's capacity to adapt and innovate."

While Chief Hansen is retiring from the position of Fire Chief, he will continue his advocacy for the field of Fire and EMS and looks forward to spending more time with his family. On August 4, 2022, from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm, the Village will be hosting a community open house for those desiring to wish Chief Hansen well in his retirement. The open house will be held in the Council Chambers in the Village Hall, and all are welcome to attend. The Mayor and Board of Trustees will also honor Chief Hansen's service to the Village publicly at the August 16, 2022, Village Board meeting which begins at 7:30 pm. Community members are welcome to attend the meeting and thank Chief Hansen for the positive impact he has made in Lincolnwood.

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