



Lake Forest City Manager Announces Plan for Retirement

July 3, 2018

In Executive Session following the July 2 City Council meeting, Lake Forest City Manager Bob Kiely notified the City Council of his intent to retire, effective January 30, 2019. Mr. Kiely was appointed City Manager in November of 1990 and is the eighth and longest serving City Manager in Lake Forest's history. During Kiely's 27+ years with Lake Forest, he has worked with nine mayors and over 50 aldermen and women.

"After close to three decades of putting my community first, it is now time I shift my priorities and put my family first," Kiely told the City Council. "The City is in a strong financial position and has a world-class staff. An ideal situation to be in when you are searching for a new City Manager."

Mayor Rob Lansing states, "I have had the privilege of working with Bob for many years...first as an Alderman, and now as Mayor. Bob is the very definition of the City Council-City Manager form of municipal government, having provided outstanding leadership and management for City Staff, and high-quality support for hundreds of civic-minded volunteers who have served on City Boards, Commissions, and City Council. His accomplishments are many, in guiding Lake Forest to be one of the most fiscally-sound, well-planned, and well-operated communities in the United States. These talents and Bob's cheerful, objective manner will be missed, along with his encyclopedic knowledge of the Lake Forest community. On behalf of the citizens of Lake Forest, I thank Bob for his excellent service, and wish him well in retirement."

Kiely has helped guide many enhancements to the community including:

- Lake Forest becoming a Home Rule community in 2004
- Renovating City Hall, Dickinson Hall, Stirling Hall, Elawa Farms, the Deerpath Golf Course, the Recreation Center, and Forest Park

- Purchasing and developing Townline Park on Route 60
- Constructing a new LEED certified Municipal Services Center and the sale and redevelopment of the former Municipal Services Center property known as Kelmscott Park
- Stabilizing and revitalizing the business operations at Gorton Community Center
- Structuring countless intergovernmental cooperation agreements and operational efficiencies
- Maintaining the City's Aaa bond rating and the lowest tax rate in Lake County while continuing to provide exemplary City services
- Centralizing Police and Fire Dispatch
- Expanding/Rehabilitating the lakefront Water Treatment Plant
- Redeveloping the Grove Cultural Campus
- Establishing the Lake Forest Collaborative for Environmental Leadership and developing the City of Lake Forest Sustainability Plan
- Improving the Western Avenue Streetscape
- Developing Settler's Square
- BMW Championships in 2013, 2015 and 2017
- Establishing the "Welcome Home" marketing campaign for The City of Lake Forest

Mr. Kiely indicated that he made his announcement at this time to ensure the City Council has sufficient opportunity to select a quality replacement. This timeline will permit Mr. Kiely to initiate the Comprehensive Plan updating process, and start work on the FY20 City annual budget, but leave the finalization to his successor.

The City Council will discuss the engagement of a search firm and the timeline for selecting its next City Manager at its July 16 meeting.