

PROCLAMATION

HONORING FIRE CHIEF RONALD KOBYLESKI ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Ronald Kobyleski will retire officially on May 10, 2025, after more than 40 years of outstanding and meritorious service to the residents of the Village of Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, Chief Kobyleski began his public service career with the Village of Oak Park in 1985 as a firefighter/EMT and through hard work, meritorious service and leadership, rose through the ranks to serve as a Lieutenant, Lieutenant of training, Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief before reaching his final and most important position of Oak Park's Fire Chief on November 22nd, 2021; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Chief Kobyleski has demonstrated exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication and a profound commitment to the well-being of the Village of Oak Park; and

WHEREAS, throughout over four decades of service, Chief Kobyleski has served as a certified Fire Investigator, Hazardous-Materials Technician and Technical Rescue Specialist in building collapse, high-rise rescue, trench rescue and confined-space rescue, also creating the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Technical Rescue Team, while leading them for nine years; and

WHEREAS, Chief Kobyleski is certified as an Advance Fire Officer and Training Program Manager and he has been affiliated with the International Fire Chief's Association, Illinois Fire Chief's Association and the National Fire Protection Association; and

WHEREAS, Chief Kobyleski has led the Oak Park Fire Department to make great strides in providing accommodations for all genders and sexual orientations by enclosing the sleeping quarters at two of its stations and reimaging and modernizing washroom and locker facilities.

WHEREAS, Chief Kobyleski's dedication to the safety and welfare of Oak Park's residents and visitors, as well as the women and men of the Oak Park Fire Department, has earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues, community leaders and the entire Village of Oak Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Oak Park, Cook County, Illinois that we take this opportunity to express our sincere and grateful appreciation and hereby extend our congratulations to Fire Chief Ron Kobyleski on his well-earned retirement and our best wishes to him for continued success and happiness in the years to come.

DATED this 18th day of March, 2025.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk