

City Council

Agenda Cover Memorandum

Meeting Date: December 20, 2010

Item Title: Mayoral Veto of Police Chief Salary

Action Requested:

- Approval
- For discussion
- Feedback requested
- For your information

Staff Contact: Mayor David Schmidt

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Background:

On December 6, the City Council approved a \$148,000 salary for the Chief of Police. While I have great admiration for Chief Kaminski and the efforts he has made to improve our police department, I cannot in good conscience agree to such an expenditure. Therefore, I am vetoing the Council's December 6 approval.

Our City's salary guidelines are very specific with respect to salaries for department heads, and all employees for that matter. Those guidelines proscribe a salary range of \$101,000 to a maximum of \$142,000 for the police chief. The salary approved by the Council exceeds that maximum figure by \$6000. That is reason enough to veto this expenditure.

Moreover, I have reviewed a survey of salaries paid to local police chiefs. The salary approved by the Council is the third highest out of the 30 communities which were surveyed. By way of comparison, Evanston, the community where Chief Kaminski was previously the chief and which places far greater demands on its police force, pays its chief \$139,000. According to the survey, the \$148,000 figure approved by the Council is \$10,000 higher than the salary in Niles, \$12,000 more than Des Plaines, \$14,000 more than Arlington Heights and a whopping \$25,000 more than Morton Grove. While I repeat my admiration for Chief Kaminski and his efforts, there is no justification for exceeding our salary guidelines and paying our chief of police a far higher salary than communities which are larger, have more significant law enforcement issues, or both.

I ask the Council to support this veto.

Recommendation:

Mayor Schmidt requests the support of the Council for his veto

Budget Implications:

Does Action Require an Expenditure of Funds: Yes No

If Yes, Total Cost:

If Yes, is this a Budgeted Item:

Yes

No

Attachments:

- Police Chief Salaries of surrounding communities
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Naperville	\$154,441	21 years
Deerfield	\$149,787	9 years
Wilmette	\$146,222	
Buffalo Grove	\$144,709	7.5 years
Northbrook	\$141,819	5 years
Winnetka	\$140,676	
Elmhurst	\$139,819	8 years
Highland Park	\$139,478	7.5 years
Evanston	\$139,394	3.5 years
Oak Park	\$138,979	9.5 years
Addison	\$137,643	7 years
Niles	\$137,386	6 years
Des Plaines	\$136,147	7 years
Mount Prospect	\$135,000	3.5 years
Palatine	\$133,815	11 years
Arlington Heights	\$133,576	6 years
Skokie	\$134,393	5.5 years
Gurnee	\$134,118	16 years
Schaumburg	\$133,783	1.5 years
Mundelein	\$133,480	18 years
Lake Forest	\$131,083	1 year
Streamwood	\$129,630	5.5 years
Hoffman Estates	\$128,118	Acting Chief
Hanover Park	\$127,500	1 year
Glen Ellyn	\$125,985	9 years
Wheeling	\$125,000	9 mos
Morton Grove	\$122,578	1.5 years
Downers Grove	\$117,289	7 years
Roselle	\$116,000	4.5 years
Villa Park	\$104,650	six months

\$133,750

Park Ridge **\$148,000 1.5 years**