



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 17, 2017

TO: City Council

FROM: Alderman John Moran

RE: Budget Comment

The strategic planning, capital planning and FY18 budget sessions have now concluded. On behalf of the entire City Council, I would like to thank our Acting City Manager, Joe Gilmore, for his leadership throughout this process. I'd also like to thank our Department Heads and City staff members, especially Andrea Lamberg and her team in the Finance Department, for their efforts to ensure that this was a smoothly run process. Additionally, I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the late Alderman Dan Knight, who would have been very proud to see how this process has played out and the major improvements being made that benefit the residents of Park Ridge.

Due to the successful strategic planning meetings held last fall, everyone involved seemed to be focused on common goals. Here are some of the highlights from the FY18 budget that is about to be approved:

- Approved 8.14% Reduction in the City's Property Tax Levy, saving taxpayers \$1,800,000.
- Two Additional Police Officers
- Three Additional Firefighter/Paramedics
- Purchase of Rescue SUV for Fire Department, to improve response times and extend the life of our fleet
- Major software upgrades in Finance and Community Development to improve interaction with residents
- 25% Increase in the water main replacement budget
- 50% Increase in the sewer lining budget
- 22% Increase in road replacement/repair budget
- Addressing multiple maintenance issues in and around city owned property that have been deferred for many years.

Since I moved back to Park Ridge in 2010, our City's financial updates have not always been positive. Through the hard work and dedication of many of the people in this room, we are now headed in the right direction.

The community, City Council and staff should all be very proud of the work that has been done inside of 505 Butler Place over the past year. Park Ridge is not perfect – just review comments on social media from citizens expressing their concerns and it's pretty obvious that we still have issues that need to be addressed - but we finally seem to have a stable financial foundation that will enable us to address these issues and improve the quality of life for the residents of Park Ridge. As always, the City Council is open to and encourages communication from residents as we plan for the future.