



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Village Announces the Retirement of Fire Chief Patrick Kenny

Village of Western Springs, January 14 , 2021 – Chief Patrick Kenny retires today from the Department of Fire & EMS, after a career that spans more than 38 years as a committed member of the fire service. Chief Kenny has served more than two decades as a Fire Chief – 9 of those years in Western Springs. His fire service career can be measured not only by his own personal success, but by the positive impact that he has had on firefighters and officers within his Department, and the fire service throughout Illinois.

Chief Kenny successfully led the Department through a period of major growth and change, while maintaining extremely high standards of departmental skill and performance. He is a champion of the paid-on-call model that is the basis for firefighter recruitment used to staff the department to this day. In 2003, he was designated a Chief Fire Officer by the Center for Public Safety Excellence – of which there were less than 1000 worldwide at the time. In 2004, he was awarded Fire Chief of the Year by the Illinois Fire Chief Association. This past year, Chief Kenny was honored as George D. Post Instructor of the Year by the Engineering/ International Society of Fire Safety Instructors.

Chief Kenny is a nationally renowned speaker and author within the fire service, as well as a key figure in addressing the behavioral and mental health crisis within the United States Fire Service. In November of 2020 he authored a book entitled, *“Taking the Cape Off: How to Lead through Mental Illness, Unimaginable Grief and Loss”*. Chief Kenny’s future plans include continuing to dedicate his time and effort to promoting outreach for mental health, grief, and loss within all professions and families.

The Village Board of Trustees and staff extend their gratitude to Chief Kenny for his many years of dedicated service to the residents of Western Springs, and wish him the best in his retirement.

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