



## **Federal Indictment of Former Grayslake Chamber of Commerce Employee**

In light of recent announcement of a federal indictment relating to alleged financial misconduct by the former executive director of the Grayslake Chamber of Commerce, the Village of Grayslake would like to assure residents that: (i) the Chamber is an independent entity, with its own board of directors; (ii) it is not part of the Village government; and (iii) there is no suggestion of wrongdoing with respect to Village funds.

As background, the Village has entered into certain contracts with the Chamber over the years. Those contracts have generally related to economic development services that the Chamber agreed to provide to the Village. Under each of those contracts, the Village paid the Chamber the amounts due, just as the Village would do with any of its many vendors. The Village received all services required under the contracts.

As with all of its vendors, the Village has limited information regarding the internal financial and legal matters affecting the Chamber. Moreover, because of the pending indictment, it would be inappropriate to comment further on the matters in question. As a customer of the Chamber, the Village will certainly cooperate to extent it is asked to do so.

The Village acknowledges that the subject of the indictment is the Chamber's former Executive Director Karen Christian-Smith, who is married to Kirk Smith. Mr. Smith has been an employee of the Village for over 30 years serving in various capacities. He is currently the Village's zoning officer. To the Village's understanding, Mr. Smith has not been implicated in any way in the indictment. Moreover, under Illinois law, the business dealings of spouses are legally independent of each other. The Village will support federal authorities in this matter, while taking all appropriate steps to ensure that the Village remains fully compliant with Illinois employment law.

*Mayor: Rhiett Taylor*  
*Trustees: Ronald L. Jarvis ~ Kevin D. Waldenstrom ~ Elizabeth Davies ~ Lalena Zoe Magnetta ~ Laura Dias ~ Pradip Sahu*  
*Village Clerk: Cynthia E. Lee*