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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***VILLAGE WINS PETERSON APPEAL***

**OAK BROOK, IL –March 27, 2014–** The Illinois Supreme Court has denied Steven Peterson’s request to appeal an Appellate Court decision that upheld the Village of Oak Brook Board of Fire and Police Commission’s (BFPC) decision to terminate former police officer Stephen Peterson.

“The Supreme Court’s denial of the appeal ends the litigation on the Peterson termination matter”, said Village ~~President Manager David Niemeyer~~ Gopal Lalmalani. “We have always believed that the evidence strongly supported the decision of the BFPC and we are glad that the courts have agreed with the Village’s position.”

~~As noted~~ On February 19, 2011, the BFPC sustained the charges brought against Peterson for violating State Statute and several Oak Brook police conduct regulations. In sustaining the charges, the Board cited, among other things, the contradictory testimony that Peterson gave concerning his purported reason the weapons were given to him, the circumstances by which funds were transferred to him, as well as his rationale for not immediately disclosing the above information to the Illinois State Police.

Overall, the BFPC found that Peterson "exercised extremely poor judgment with respect to the weapons and money that he received from his father, Drew Peterson." The BFPC further found that Peterson’s testimony and demeanor at the hearing demonstrated his refusal to acknowledge any error in judgment on his part. According to the BFPC, "~~w~~fhether the weapons or the money ultimately held any evidentiary value relative to the investigation . . . is irrelevant. Considering the totality of the circumstances it was incumbent on Officer Peterson to immediately disclose his receipt of the weapons and money to the appropriate authorities and he willfully elected to ignore that obligation."



In determining the appropriate discipline, the Board considered Peterson's prior discipline, including suspensions. Furthermore, the Board considered the reasonable level of judgment expected of someone granted the extraordinary legal authority of police power. Finally, the BFPC found that Peterson's statements were self-serving, disingenuous, not credible, and demonstrated that Peterson lacked the fundamental ability to make sound judgments.

**About Oak Brook:**

Founded in 1958, the Village of Oak Brook is located 15 miles west of downtown Chicago and is in proximity to the junction of Interstates 88, 294, and 290. The Village consists mostly of residential subdivisions, with the exception of the Oak Brook Center shopping mall, other retail and office properties along 22nd Street and Interstate 88. Oak Brook is the home of many corporate offices, most notably, the world headquarters of McDonald's Corporation, Ace Hardware, Tree House Foods, Inland Real Estate and the service club organization Lions Clubs International. Oak Brook is also known for being one of the few municipalities in the Chicago area that does not levy a property tax on residents or businesses. To learn more about Oak Brook, please visit <http://www.oak-brook.org>.

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