



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey*  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **City of Rockford Announces Personnel Changes**

ROCKFORD, IL – Mayor Larry Morrissey has announced Matthew Vitner as the city’s Interim Director of Public Works. Vitner replaces Tim Hanson whose last day with the city was January 29, 2016.

“I’m extremely pleased and supportive of Matt Vitner becoming our Interim Director of the Public Works Department,” said Mayor Morrissey. “I look forward to continuing to work with Matt and the rest of our team as we work on a seamless transition moving forward.”

Vitner has been the City Engineer since 2011 and was appointed Deputy Director of Public Works in 2014. In his role as Deputy Director of Public Works, Vitner has assisted with the overall management of the Public Works Department that includes engineering, street operations and maintenance, properties, water production and distribution, and fleet maintenance. Also serving as City Engineer, Vitner has had direct management and oversight over the Capital Improvements and Engineering Division, leading all activities of the city’s multi-million capital improvements program, as well as the city’s stormwater management program.

“Matt Vitner is uniquely qualified to lead the Public Works Department. Prior to joining the city, Matt had more than 21 years of public works experience in the Cook County Highway Department, working his way up to Chief Engineer of Transportation and Planning,” stated Jim Ryan, City Administrator.

Chris Black, current Director of Finance for the City of Rockford, will assume a new role with Rock Valley College in March as its Vice President of Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer. Black’s last day with the city will be Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

Director Black started with the city in the Finance Department in 1998, and left for several years to lead the City of McHenry as its Finance Director and City Administrator from August 2006 to April 2012. Upon the retirement of the City of Rockford’s longtime Finance Director, Andres Sammul, Chris returned to his hometown to become the city’s Director of Finance.

“Chris came in at a critical time during significant financial stress for the city, and he did an excellent job in managing the city’s Finance Department and the overall finances of the city during his tenure. His depth of knowledge and management will be greatly missed. However, we are very happy that he is taking on a role within the community, and he will be an asset to Rock Valley College,” said Ryan.

“I’m very sad to see Chris Black leave the City of Rockford as he has been an incredible leader for our organization. I am extremely supportive of his move, and supportive of Rock Valley College as they continue to do great work for our community. Just like with Public Works, Chris leaves behind an incredibly talented team within our finance department who will continue to lead the city’s excellence in financial management and oversight,” concluded Morrissey.

The city will begin recruiting for a new Finance Director immediately. An Interim Finance Director will be named in the coming weeks.

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