



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J.
Morrissey*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MAYOR MORRISSEY ANNOUNCES NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR

ROCKFORD, IL: MARCH 5, 2012 – Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey announced tonight at City Council that he has chosen Rockford native Christopher (Chris) Black as his new Finance Director.

Mr. Black is the current City Administrator for the City of McHenry, Illinois. Previous to his position as City Administrator, Chris was the Finance Director for the City of McHenry and was formerly employed by the City of Rockford as its Central Services Manager and as a Financial Analyst. He holds a Master's Degree in Public and Environmental Affairs from Indiana University and has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and History from Illinois State.

Chris will replace Andres Sammul, who retired as Finance Director in August of 2011. The national search for the replacement was conducted by Voorhees & Associates. As part of the recruitment effort, the City established a search committee comprised of Alderman Bill Robertson, Alderman Doug Mark, Jim Ryan, City Administrator, Julia Valdez, Human Resources Director, Einar Forsman, President of the Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce, Vint Buckwalter, Finance Director at Hamilton Sundstrand, and Barb Jackson, Corporate Comptroller at Liebovich Steel. The choice to recommend Mr. Black to the Mayor for final consideration was based upon the unanimous endorsement of the selection committee membership.

Mr. Black has accepted the offer of employment with the City of Rockford, and with City Council approval of his appointment, he would start his employment with the City effective May 1, 2012. "Given his municipal experience as a City Administrator for a mid-sized city in Illinois, along with his extensive municipal finance background, he will be able to hit the ground running and will be an excellent addition to the City executive team." Mayor Morrissey stated in a memo to Aldermen.

Resume attached.

Christopher Black

EXPERIENCE:

City Administrator – City of McHenry, IL

Administrator of 132 full-time equivalent employee organization providing public works, police, community development, and parks services. Report to a Mayor and seven-member City Council.

July 2010 to present

- Primary role in forming a redevelopment agreement for a residential mixed-use building located within the City's tax increment finance district after the failure of the project's first developer.
- Responsible for negotiating concessions with two bargaining units for the current year, as well as bargaining for an expired agreement with the City's dispatchers, records clerks, and community services officers.
- Responsible for financial planning and preparation and presentation of the annual operating budget and capital improvement program.

Finance Director – City of McHenry, IL

Management of an eight position Finance Department responsible the financial planning and reporting, budgeting, payroll processing, accounts payable and receivable, revenue collection, utility billing and management of the police pension fund.

August 2006 to July 2010

- Worked closely with elected officials and management staff to address a structural budget deficit exacerbated by the economic downturn. Developed a long-term financial plan, established new revenue streams, and assisted in recommending staff reductions and consolidations.
- Leadership role in City's move from self-insured to fully insured health and dental coverage and funding changes to reduce the deficit in the Health Insurance Fund by 65% in three years.
- Implemented acceptance on credit card payments on-line and over-the-counter, consolidation of administrative staff from the Finance and Parks departments, and developed the city's first financial policy.

Central Services Manager – City of Rockford, IL

Responsible for supervision of professional and technical staff and managing the preparation of the City's annual operating budget and citywide purchasing activities, monitoring the use of budgeted funds, oversight of the risk management program, and working on special projects. July 1999 to Aug. 2006

- Managing and working directly on preparation of the annual budget, including assisting departments in developing requests, conducting analysis, and presentation of budget.
- Project manager for implementation of general government software that included financial, budgeting, purchasing, payroll, utility billing, and licensing modules.

Financial Analyst – City of Rockford, IL

Responsibilities included developing of city budget, contributing to financial management and oversight of city departments, assisting operational areas with the purchase of goods and services, and involvement in risk management activities.

January 1998 to July 1999

Program Analyst – Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau, Madison WI

Responsibilities included evaluating the effectiveness of state and municipal agencies and programs through the use of budget and policy analysis as a staff member of a non-partisan, legislative services agency.

July 1994 to January 1998

EDUCATION:

Indiana University – School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Bloomington, IN

Master of Public Administration, 1992.

Concentration: Public Financial Administration.

Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Bachelor of Science, Political Science and History, 1988.

CERTIFICATIONS:

Certified Public Financial Officer (CPFO) designation from GFOA in November 2009.