



CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRAIG SKALAK APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF RECREATION & PARKS FOR THE CITY OF COLONIAL HEIGHTS

City Manager Richard A. Anzolut, Jr. announced the appointment of the City's Recreation Superintendent to serve as the next Director of Recreation and Parks. Craig Skalak (49) of 710 Waterfront Drive, Colonial Heights, will succeed Sean E. Gleason as Director of the department effective December 23, 2009. Earlier this year, Gleason announced his retirement from full-time public service effective at the end of December 2009. Mr. Gleason retires with 34 years in municipal recreation and parks management.

Mr. Skalak is a lifelong resident of the City of Colonial Heights. He graduated from Colonial Heights High School with the Class of 1978. Since January 1989, Mr. Skalak has served as the City's Recreation Superintendent, directing and managing the City's recreational programming. Mr. Skalak is familiar with all aspects of the City's Department of Recreation and Parks having served the City for over 20 years in his current position. He knows his customers, coworkers and program participants well. As a long-term resident of the community, he knows the issues and needs of the department, the City organization and its residents.

Mr. Anzolut announced this appointment after conducting an in-house promotional process. Anzolut said, "Craig Skalak has been in a leadership position in the department for 20 years and an active participant in management activities throughout his tenure. He has been trained in our department and our organization. I did not feel it was necessary to look beyond our own organization for Sean Gleason's successor when I had a staff member like Craig training for the position in our organization for 20 years". Anzolut went on to further say, "People know Craig and they like what he has done for our recreation programs and our City for many years. He has respect throughout the City organization and the community. I am impressed with his desire to succeed his long-term boss, Sean Gleason. Craig has discussed a number of new ideas and new approaches with me during the interview and selection process. I believe he is the right person to continue the good work of Sean Gleason and to take the department to the next level".

Mr. Skalak has spent two-thirds of his professional career with the City of Colonial Heights. The first 10 years of his working life was spent in the private sector with a recreational and sporting goods firm. He is a life-long sports and recreation professional. Mr. Skalak is a member of the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society and the National Recreation and Parks Association. He is an avid golfer who enjoys all forms of athletic activities.

Mr. Anzolut was further quoted as saying, "Craig has the skills, and most importantly, the direct day-to-day experience to perform the Director's duties in an exemplary manner. I believe he will do a fine job once he adjusts to the Director's duties. Craig's first responsibility will be to learn those things handled only by the Director and make the community and workforce contacts that were so well performed by his predecessor, Sean Gleason. He will also need to recruit a new Recreation Superintendent. We welcome Craig to the senior management team, and his fellow Department Directors have pledged their commitment to his success".

Mr. Skalak was quoted as saying, "I am excited by the promotion and the opportunity to lead the department and our fine employees. I am also honored that the City Manager and the City Management Team has faith and confidence in my abilities. I really look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Colonial Heights. My past interactions and service to our citizens has always been rewarding. This is my home town, and the chance to lead its Recreation and Parks Department is a professional accomplishment that means a lot to me". He also said, "Our department and this community will miss Sean Gleason. He has been an exceptional leader of our department and a devoted public servant to citizens of all ages. We wish him the best in his retirement. I want to continue the good work Sean has done and hopefully improve a few things here and there along the way".

Mr. Skalak assumes the Director's duties on Wednesday, December 23, 2009. For the next 3 weeks, he will be paralleling Sean Gleason in an extensive orientation process. Mr. Skalak can be reached through the Department of Recreation and Parks at 520-9390 or skalakc@colonial-heights.com.