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NEWS RELEASE

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The celebration a legacy: Chief Mary Frake retires

Lake in the Hills, IL – Lake in the Hills Police Department congratulates Chief Mary Frake as she officially retires from thirty years in law enforcement on Thursday, July 11, 2024.

There are few individuals that have made such an inefaceable mark in McHenry County law enforcement as Chief Mary Frake, whose retirement marks the culmination of an extraordinary thirty-year career.

As the sole female officer in her new hire class at the Illinois State Police academy in 1994, Chief Frake was bound to stand out from the very start of her career. Chief Frake quickly distinguished herself as a talented and gifted officer.

Chief Frake spent several years on patrol and then in investigations as a detective where she advocated for victims of crime and worked to ensure their voices were heard and respected. Chief Frake's tenacity, meticulous attention to detail, strong leadership abilities and commitment to the community extended well beyond the police department. Her years were marked by commendations and awards for her service, integrity, and exceptional police and investigative skills.

In 2003, Mary Frake achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first female Deputy Chief and again, in 2021 when she was promoted to chief, becoming the first female police chief at Lake in the Hills, but also the second ever female police chief in McHenry County.

Chief Frake's appointment was not just a recognition of her personal achievements but also a reflection of her ability to inspire and lead a diverse team. Under her leadership, the police department saw a period of transformation and growth. She prioritized staffing and wellness, recognizing that a well-supported force is essential to effective law enforcement.

"In her time at the police department, Chief Frake has truly exemplified what it means to lead with integrity, vision, and unwavering commitment," said Officer Amanda Schmitt, the Public Information Officer for the

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Lake in the Hills Police Department. "Under Chief Frake's guidance, our department has reached unprecedented milestones, such as breaking ground on a state-of-the-art police facility coming in 2025. Chief Frake fostered a culture of excellence and community engagement. She strengthened our operational capabilities but also has been a steadfast advocate for the wellbeing and safety of our community."

Schmitt continued to say Frake's remarkable achievements have set a high standard for leadership and have left an indelible mark on the police department and in the community in which the Lake in the Hills Police Department serves.

Chief Frake's tenure is also outlined by her commitment to community-centric policing. She understood that trust and cooperation between the police and the community are foundational to public safety. Chief Frake spearheaded initiatives aimed at modernizing the department, embracing new technologies and methodologies to enhance crime prevention and community policing efforts. Programs such as National Night Out, Trick or Treat at Safety Town, Women's Safety Series, Teen Safety Series, and development of our social media platforms are just some of the steps taken in community engagement in which Chief Frake was a monumental force.

As Chief Frake steps into retirement, her legacy is cemented in the profound impact she has had on the community and the law enforcement profession. Her dedication to service, her relentless pursuit of justice, and her innovative spirit have been impactful on all who have had the privilege to work with her. Chief Frake is known for her humility, resilience, and unwavering ethical standards. Her career is a beacon of what can be achieved through dedication, empathy, and a commitment to the greater good.

As the police department bids farewell to Chief Frake, the celebration not just her remarkable career but also the enduring principles she has instilled in law enforcement practices. Her retirement marks the end of an era, but her legacy will continue to inspire and guide the future of policing in the community.

Please join the police department in congratulating Chief Mary Frake on thirty years of exemplary service and her retirement.

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