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Executive Director Mike Stratton Resigns
Resignation effective February 15, 2013

(Springfield) The Springfield Park District Board of Trustees has accepted the resignation of Executive Director Mike Stratton, effective February 15, 2013.

Stratton has been on unpaid administrative leave since February 13, 2013, after Board members raised questions regarding recent payments made to Stratton from District funds.

Following completion of an internal review, the Board determined that Stratton authorized and received payment of Park District funds outside the normal and approved procedures for Park District compensation. These disbursements include (i) \$500.00 to repay a "salary advance" on September 10, 2012; (ii) \$2100.00 to repay another "salary advance" on January 18, 2013; (iii) \$90.00 in parking tickets; (iv) \$70.00 in unreimbursed petty cash; (v) \$100.28 for dinner at Lou Malnati's Pizzeria in Chicago on January 25, 2013; and (vi) \$125.35 at Dick's Last Resort in Chicago on January 26, 2013. A formal audit will be conducted and recovery of additional amounts owed by Mr. Stratton, if any, will be pursued.

"The Springfield Park District neither has a policy which permits payment of salary advances nor was any such practice approved by the Board of Trustees," said Board President Leslie Sgro. Mr. Stratton has reimbursed the District for each of these payments and expenses which were incurred without the knowledge or prior authorization of the Board.

"The District completed a thorough internal investigation, accepted Mr. Stratton's resignation and recovered amounts owed to the District less than one week after Mr. Stratton was placed on unpaid administrative leave," added President Sgro. "I am pleased with the Board's swift and judicious action to protect the District and its citizens."

Derek Harms will continue to serve as the Springfield Park District's Acting Executive Director pending completion of the District's search for a permanent Executive Director.

"This resolution secures immediate repayment of funds owed to the District and permits the Board of Trustees to move forward with our core mission to maintain and improve our public parks and recreation facilities for the benefit of this community," said President Sgro.

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ADMINISTRATION

Derek Harms, CPRP
Acting Executive Director

Elliott McKinley
Director of Parks

Mark Bartolozzi
Director of Finance & HR

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