TRUSTEE DALE THOMAS, PLAN COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CAREN THOMAS TO STEP DOWN FROM VILLAGE POSITIONS

(Glenco, Illinois) — Village of Glenco Trustee Dale Thomas and Plan Commission Chairman Caren Thomas have notified Village President Lawrence R. Levin that they will step down from their respective positions effective March 29, 2019. Both roles require that they reside in the corporate boundaries of the Village of Glenco and the Thomas family is relocating to a nearby suburb after having lived in Glenco for 30 years.

Trustee Dale Thomas was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2013 and since that time has also served as the Chairman of the Golf Advisory Committee and as a member of the Finance Committee. Prior to his election to the Village Board, Trustee Thomas served on the Golf Advisory Committee from 2004-2010, as well as on the Street Ends Task Force which recommended a series of improvements to the Village’s shoreline adjacent street ends from 2011-2012. Trustee Thomas played an integral role in the Village’s efforts to enter into a new land use agreement with the Cook County Forest Preserve District, which will ensure the long-term preservation of Glenco’s 126-acre publically owned golf course. Trustee Thomas also has been supportive of efforts to plan future capital improvements to the Glencoe Golf Club clubhouse through his work on the Clubhouse Task Force, which convened from 2010-2012. On the Village Board, he thoughtfully collaborated on the development of the Village’s Strategic Plans, approved in 2014 and 2018. Through his work on the Finance Committee, he has helped to safeguard the Village’s excellent financial position, ensuring growth of the reserve funds and passage of two bond referenda in 2015. His leadership contributed to the preservation of the Village’s coveted AAA bond rating by Standard & Poor’s. In addition to his service to the Glencoe community, Trustee Thomas enjoyed a successful career in law with a focus on telecommunications and energy regulation, recently retiring as Senior Counsel at the law firm of Sidley Austin, LLP.

Plan Commission Chairman Caren Thomas, a land-use attorney and strategic planning consultant, has served on the Plan Commission for 24 years (15 years as Chair) with numerous accomplishments that have positively impacted the Glencoe community. Most recently she led the process to redraft the Village’s Appearance Guide which details design standards for residential and business districts. From 2014-2016, she provided leadership, guidance and oversight of the Downtown TuneUp engagement process that led to the creation and adoption of the Village’s Downtown Plan. Already, the Downtown Plan’s recommendations are being implemented, as seen through the current Tudor Court Design review process, the goal of which is to build on the arts core that is developing in Glencoe’s downtown. Chairman Thomas served as an expert advisor to Village Board and staff during the special use review and approval of the new Writers Theatre building, completed in 2016. Chairman Thomas was also heavily involved in the design review and approval of all three automobile dealerships on Frontage Road, thereby helping to achieve a long-term economic development goal of the Village.
Also thanks to her leadership, the Village considered and approved an updated subdivision ordinance in addition to an impervious surface ordinance and comprehensive steep slope legislation, aimed at protecting Glencoe’s unique natural physical environmental while applying land use best practices. Prior to her service on the commission, Chairman Thomas was involved in the development of the Plan Commission’s 1996 Comprehensive Plan which she then helped to update as a commission member in 2004.

“My long term goal as Plan Commission Chairman was to bring the Village's canon of land use law into the modern age,” wrote Chairman Thomas. “Having seen multiple projects through to conclusion, while it is personally difficult – even painful – to leave, I do so without regret. With the active participation of superb Plan Commissioners and an outstanding staff, we have accomplished everything I hoped we would.”

“That Dale and Caren are leaving is a major loss for Glencoe, as both have been true leaders in our community,” shared Village President Levin. “Their contributions to the Village Board, Golf Advisory Committee, Golf Clubhouse Task Force, Street Ends Task Force and Plan Commission have been tremendous. Both are leaving a legacy of selfless public service and dedication to the betterment of Glencoe. Our community owes them a great debt of gratitude.”

“Glencoe is, and will always be, our home community,” wrote the Thomases’ in a farewell note. “We look forward to continued opportunities to be of service to Glencoe, a Village served by an extraordinary professional staff and devoted volunteer public officials. It is an honor to be a part of Glencoe’s history.”

Per State statute, an appointment to a vacancy on the Board of Trustees may be made by the Village President and confirmed by the Village Board of Trustees. Should an appointment be made, the replacement trustee will serve through the end of Trustee Thomas’ current term, ending in April 2021. The vacancy left by Chairman Thomas on the Plan Commission will be filled by an appointment by the Village President. President Levin has begun the process of considering individuals for both roles and any interested candidates should contact him via e-mail at larrylevin@villageofglencoe.org.

Please direct media inquiries to Assistant to the Village Manager Megan Meyer at mmeyer@villageofglencoe.org / (847) 461-1104.

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