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**Bill Ruhl**  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**  
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**For More Information**  
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### **MAYOR PEDERSEN WINS DISTINGUISHED CRIME PREVENTION AWARD**

**Mayor is Named Municipal Leader of the Year by Illinois State Crime Commission**

**Franklin Park** - Mayor Barrett Pedersen will receive the 2013 Municipal Leader of the Year Award from the Illinois State Crime Commission. This prestigious award is the highest form of recognition in Illinois for crime prevention efforts.

"I am honored to have been selected to receive the 2013 Municipal Leader of the Year Award," stated Mayor Pedersen. "I believe that it is government's first duty to safeguard our neighborhoods and to ensure the safety of our families. I have made it a priority to work with our Police Department to implement crime prevention strategies because as we know, the best way to fight crime is to stop it before it happens."

Each year, the Illinois State Crime Commission bestows the prestigious award to individuals who have demonstrated a strong record of achievement in crime prevention and public outreach. The Commission is comprised of corporate executives from Fortune 500 companies, international

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trade unions, local, state and national legislators, national civic and fraternal groups, and law enforcement officials.

Mayor Pedersen was selected as an award recipient for his many important crime prevention achievements in Franklin Park including a strong commitment to regional cooperation. Last year, the Franklin Park Police Department worked with the FBI and the Chicago Police Department on a Joint Task Force on Gangs in an effort to stop street violence. This collaboration advanced the arrest of 19 suspects for supplying illegal drugs and firearms to the Chicago area and resulted in dangerous criminals being removed from our streets.

The Illinois Crime Commission also recognized Mayor Pedersen's unwavering dedication to locating new funding sources to provide important technological advances in crime prevention. Through a grant from the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System, the Village was able to install a mobile surveillance system with multiple cameras that records 24 hours per day to monitor the Intermodal Train Yard incidents. The Village has utilized a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation to support a Click It or Ticket Campaign to help deter drinking and driving and to increase safety on our streets and for the traveling public. In addition, the Franklin Park Police Department was awarded a grant to promote child safety seat awareness.

Additionally, the Franklin Park Police Department has secured a federal grant for the purchase of ballistic vests for police officers, obtained a grant from the State for enforcement of pedestrian and vehicle traffic violations at rail crossings and purchased two new patrol vehicles by utilizing unclaimed money in the Department's asset forfeiture account.

"As Mayor, it has been my mission to work with our Police Department to ensure the delivery of high quality law enforcement services to our community," said Pedersen. "Our police officers work hard to serve and protect our community. They put their lives on the line every day to safeguard our families and we owe them access to the very best tools and technology to aid in their efforts to prevent and detect crime."

Franklin Park will open a new police station this summer and it will include state-of-the-art features to allow our officers to provide the very best possible public safety services to the residents and businesses in Franklin Park. The new facility will serve as regional center to allow

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collaboration with police departments in neighboring communities on area-wide task forces and to implement new crime prevention programs.

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