

**VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS  
ORDINANCE 2020-117**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 17 – POLICE; ARTICLE II – POLICE  
DEPARTMENT; SECTION 17-34 – OFFICES AND RANKS**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Vernon Hills is a municipal corporation organized and existing under the Statutes of the State of Illinois and empowered by statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village is a home rule municipality under the Illinois Constitution.

**WHEREAS**, the Village desires to modify the Department structure as follows; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF VERNON HILLS, COUNTY OF LAKE AND STATE OF ILLINOIS:

**SECTION I.** Chapter 17 – Police; Article II – Police Department; Section 17-34 – Office & Ranks is hereby amended to read:

There is hereby created the office of police chief. The police chief candidate shall be recommended by the village manager to the village president. The village president, with the advice and consent of the board of trustees with a majority vote will appoint the police chief for an indefinite term.

Effective as of October 20, 2020, there are hereby created further, the offices (ranks) of two deputy chiefs, five commanders, four sergeants, and 33 patrol officers in the 2020/2021 budget. Such members of the police department, other than the chief of police, deputy chief and commanders, shall hold such rank as shall be appointed him by the board of fire and police commissioners and from time to time according to the law.

The chief of police with the concurrence of the village manager may appoint two deputy chiefs. The deputy chief position shall be an exempt rank immediately below that of chief. The deputy chiefs may be appointed from any rank of sworn, full-time officers of the municipality's police department, but must have at least ten years of full-time service as a police officer in that department. A deputy chief shall serve at the discretion of the chief and, if removed from the position shall revert to the rank held immediately prior to appointment to the deputy chief position. The salary of deputy chief shall be established annually by the president and village board. The position of deputy chief shall be exempt from any review or control by the board of fire and police commissioners.

The police chief with the concurrence of the village manager may appoint five commanders. The commander positions shall be an exempt rank immediately below that of deputy chief. The commanders may be appointed from any rank of sworn, full-time officers of the municipality's police department, but must have at least five years of full-time service as a police officer in that department. A commander shall serve at the discretion of the police chief and, if removed from the position, shall revert to the rank held immediately prior to appointment to the commander position. The salary of commander shall be established annually by the president and village board. The position of commander shall be exempt from any review or control by the board of fire and police commissioners.

The chief of police, deputy chiefs and commanders shall be civil service exempt command positions and shall not have certified status and/or rights.

Individuals appointed to exempt command positions shall serve at the pleasure of the police chief and may be removed by the police chief with concurrence of the village manager at any time thereafter. If an individual is appointed to such a position who holds certified status within the department in another position, the individual shall retain a guaranteed right to return to the former position with certified status upon termination from the exempt command position, subject to all applicable sections of this Code, rules and regulations, and contracts.

**SECTION II. SEVERABILITY.** In the event that any section, clause, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be found and determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid parts shall remain in full force and effect. If any part of this ordinance is found to be invalid in any one or more of its several applications, all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications shall remain in effect.

**SECTION III. REPEAL AND SAVINGS CLAUSE.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall affect any rights, actions or causes of action which shall have accrued to the Village of Vernon Hills prior to the effective date of this ordinance.

**SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

**SECTION V. ORDINANCE NUMBER.** This ordinance shall be known as Ordinance Number 2020-117.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020

Adopted by roll call votes as follows:

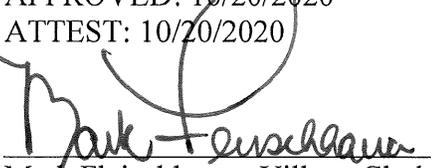
AYES: 4 – Oppenheim, Marquardt, Forster, Koch

NAYS: 0 - None

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING: 3 – Schultz, Takaoka, Byrne

  
Thom Koch Jr., Village President Pro Tem

PASSED: 10/20/2020  
APPROVED: 10/20/2020  
ATTEST: 10/20/2020

  
Mark Fleischhauer, Village Clerk

