



Office of the Mayor

David A Wood, Mayor

June 15, 2016

**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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**MAYOR WOOD ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF  
MISHAWAKA CODE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTOR**

Mayor Dave Wood announces that Joe VanNevel will be the new Code Enforcement Director for the City of Mishawaka as of June 20, 2016. VanNevel replaces George Obren, who will retire on June 17th, after 38 years with the City of Mishawaka. Obren was with the Mishawaka Police Department for 27 years, four of them serving as Police Chief, and retired from the MPD to take over as Director of Code Enforcement in 2005. Obren was instrumental in introducing the “Top 100” in the City of Mishawaka; a program dedicated to addressing sub-standard housing issues in the city.

The Director of Code Enforcement is the chief administrative officer of the Code Department and reports directly to the Mayor. The duties include responsibility for all Code Enforcement Department facilities, personnel, equipment and vehicles. The Director is responsible for planning, organizing, training and supervising of all Code Enforcement personnel.

Born and raised in Mishawaka, Joe is a graduate of Marian High School and attended Indiana University receiving a BA in Business. Joe has been in management most of his career, serving as Plant Manager for Scott Brass in Mishawaka. Joe began his career with the City of Mishawaka as Aquatics and Rink Director for the Parks Department in 2004 and was hired as a Code Enforcement Officer by Obren in 2013. He brings to the job of Director over three years of Code experience. “It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of Mishawaka for 38 years” says Obren. “Joe has done a great job as a Code Officer and has a great deal of knowledge about our city and the high expectations that our citizens have in keeping the condition of our neighborhoods second to none. I am sure that Joe will continue to serve the citizens with the world-class service that they have become accustomed to.”

Mayor Wood comments, “We will be losing a seasoned veteran with 38 years of knowledge and experience, but I am confident that Joe will make a seamless transition into the Director position and will continue the good work that George has done in this Department. I cannot thank George enough for his service to our community and citizens and can honestly say that a true public servant is retiring. Mishawaka is truly a safer, cleaner place because of George Obren. He has served our community tirelessly and will be greatly missed.”