

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

mayor@kingston-ny.gov

Steven T. Noble
Mayor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Steve Noble Announces Retirement of Head of Department of Public Works; Launches Phase I of Multi-Year Restructuring Plan

Kingston, N.Y.

On Monday, Mayor Steve Noble announced the anticipated retirement of Michael Schupp, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works.

Schupp, who has served as Superintendent since 2009 after thirty years with the New York State Parks & Recreation Historic Preservation, brought with him knowledge and experience instrumental in professionalizing the Department. Having grown up in Kingston, he took great pride in overseeing the effort to maintain and beautify this historic city.

“Mike has been a true leader in managing a large department with such a wide scope of services under its purview,” Mayor Noble said. “His vision for how a department can operate most successfully has been vital towards the overall goal of building professionalism within the Department.”

Among the many accomplishments of the Department during Schupp’s time as Superintendent was the resurfacing of one of the busiest traveled intersections within the City, Washington Avenue at Hurley Avenue and Schwenk Drive. This project, like many others, earned the Department accolades and appreciation from local residents and businesses, who witnessed a Department seeking to improve a major intersection within the city efficiently and with limited disruption. Another achievement under Schupp’s tenure was the significant increase in shared services between the City, County and neighboring towns, which resulted in the advancement and completion of multiple projects at a reduced cost. Finally, Schupp is credited with bringing automation and single stream recycling to Kingston, following a significant loss of staff in 2010. Schupp’s use of improved methods and modernized equipment for all operations has been key to the Department delivering quality services to meet the high demand.

Schupp’s retirement will be effective August 25th, with a transition period starting in late June to coincide with the utilization of his accumulated time off.

Schupp’s retirement positions the City to begin Phase I of Mayor Noble’s overall restructuring of the Department, a significant undertaking that will improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Department.

“The Department of Public Works is made up of some of the hardest working, dedicated public servants a community can have,” Mayor Noble stated. “However, after careful review of the Department’s resources and gaps in services, I have identified strategies to change the way this Department will operate. Through a strategic restructuring, we will have the opportunity to reduce management costs and reinvest into our front line workforce. The ultimate result will be an even better performing department, equipped with more capacity and a streamlined chain of command.”

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Under Phase I of this plan, changes to the Department will include:

Action: Create divisions within the Department of Public Works to include Streets and Facilities Division, Sewer Division and Park Maintenance Division.

Result: By shifting the oversight of maintenance staff from multiple supervisors in different departments to a more streamlined supervision model, maintenance staff will be better supported and city-owned equipment will be more effectively utilized

Action: Combine the responsibilities of Management into one title to oversee the entire department in the field

Result(s): This will enable the Superintendent to tend to administrative responsibilities and be more accessible to the staff and public. This will also allow for streamlined processes and improved communication within the Department of Public Works and Parks & Recreation. The public will be able to contact one source for resolution of any issues that may arise with regard to maintenance of streets, sewer, facilities and parks.

Selection of Deputy Superintendent

As part of this restructuring plan, Ed Boyle will be promoted to Deputy Superintendent. Boyle brings with him 21 years of experience with the Department, including his time as a Laborer in 1994, as a Heavy Motor Equipment Operator for eleven years, as a Labor Foreman for three years, and currently as the Assistant Superintendent, a position he has held for eight years. His responsibilities as the Deputy Superintendent will be to supervise the construction and maintenance of public streets, storm drainage, buildings and grounds, city parks and recreation facilities, fleet maintenance, and City owned parking lot maintenance.

“I am confident that Ed’s longstanding role and experience in the field will provide the stability and guidance the Department needs during this time of transition,” stated Mayor Noble.

The initial management changes are expected to take effect in early July. Further changes are likely to be included in the 2017 budget.

While Phase I focuses primarily on streamlining the management process of DPW and alleviating duplications of service between DPW and Parks and Recreation, other Departments are being evaluated for cost saving and improved efficiency measures.

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