

## **Rob Sabo Takes Helm as Rolling Meadows' City Manager**

Rolling Meadows is proud to welcome Rob Sabo as its new City Manager. Sabo, who spent the past five years as the City of Highland Park's Assistant City Manager, began his career as a Management Analyst with the City of Highwood.

His path to Rolling Meadows also included service in Prospect Heights (Deputy City Clerk & Assistant to the City Administrator) and Northbrook (Assistant to the Village Manager).

Sabo earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science (minor in Business Administration) from the University of Iowa and also holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

On the eve of his arrival in Rolling Meadows, Sabo discussed how his previous experiences prepared him for the City Manager position, recounted his initial impressions of the City, and offered insights into his approach to leadership.

### ***Why did you pursue a career in public administration?***

"I enjoy being part of a team and, more importantly, want to help improve people's lives. I've had the good fortune to be involved in a variety of complex projects that made a positive difference in the communities I've served – many that required input from, and interaction with, a variety of stakeholders. It's rewarding to see the tangible results of a collaborative team effort that brings a project from concept to reality."

### ***What drew you to Rolling Meadows?***

"Two things really stood out: (1) the City's well-earned reputation for excellence in municipal government services, and (2) the opportunity to work with a dedicated team of talented staff members and engaged residents who care deeply about their community. It's an honor to be part of such a great organization.

### ***What are your initial goals?***

“My initial focus is on learning as much as possible about City operations and building relationships with my fellow team members. Those are the first steps toward ensuring that we achieve the policy objectives set by City Council and, simultaneously, continue to deliver the highest levels of service to residents and businesses.

***How have your past experiences prepared you to serve as Rolling Meadows’ City Manager?***

“Working for four different municipalities and with many excellent local government professionals prepared me for this next step in my career. Cumulatively, I’ve had experience in all facets of local government.

“I’ve formed great relationships with city managers and departmental staff who’ve served as terrific mentors. I’ve worked on capital and operating budgets, overseen various economic development efforts and initiatives, been involved in the redevelopment of multiple largescale properties, and helped guide Highland Park through the pandemic.

“Past experience is a great teacher, but I’m always seeking to expand my knowledge of new and emerging trends in local government through professional associations and publications.”

***What are three words that best describe you?***

“Driven. Collaborative. Analytical.”

***Who are your heroes?***

“My parents are my biggest heroes and role models. They came to the United States from the former Soviet Union in the 1970s in pursuit of the American dream. They are the source of my strong work ethic. They also taught me to always aim for the absolute best outcome in anything I do. That has carried over into my career.

Michael Jordan is also my hero because I am a Chicagoan who cheered on the 1990s Bulls. In the never-ending debate on who is the NBA’s GOAT (Greatest of All Time), there is no doubt in my mind that MJ holds the title. MJ’s career is a testament to the idea that hard work, determination, focus, and practice will generate results.”

***Family members?***

“My wife, Snezhana, is an optometrist and an amazing mother to our two sons, Matthew and Alex, both of whom are in elementary school. We look forward to attending and being part of Rolling Meadows’ many community events.”

***Hobbies?***

“I enjoy playing volleyball and table tennis, and I play the saxophone, although it’s been a while since I practiced. I also enjoy the outdoors and exploring nature. As a family, we enjoy traveling – especially to coastal and tropical climates – and experiencing a variety of cultures.”

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***City Manager Rob Sabo, his wife, Snezhana, and sons, Matthew and Alex, look forward to being part of the Rolling Meadows community.***