



Alsip Public Works Gets Residency Relief

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by Jay Henry

Alsip Public Works (PW) employees have gotten a new contract – with residency requirements essentially lifted. The PW staff is organized by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (AFSCME). Mayor **Kitching** announced he had signed the agreement last Monday, Feb. 23.

According to sources, PW employees will be allowed to live outside of Alsip as long as they stay within a 10 mile radius. Our present village administration typically keeps a tight wrap on developments and information such as the new PW contract. In this election year – it's understandable that they would want to avoid any backlash from the voters of Alsip that might be upset to learn the details of the contract.

I've lived in Alsip for 24 years – and believe it's a great place to live and raise a family. While I'd like to believe that everyone of my neighbors and friends share this sentiment – I can understand the desire to live somewhere else. I get it – everyone doesn't share my positive perspective about our village.

One of the reasons I decided to run for election as a village trustee is to get the message out about Alsip. It's one thing for the administration to roll-over and give up residency during negotiations in the hopes of currying some favor with a segment of the electorate; but the real issue in my mind is convincing people (village workers included) that Alsip is **THE PLACE THEY SHOULD WANT TO LIVE**.

It's not enough to convince people simply by telling them what they should believe – most people need to be won over to your way of thinking by your plans and actions. Plans that need to have objectives with a shared purpose and actions that demonstrate commitment and advancement toward a greater goal.

These principles are lacking in our current administration. The **Alsip Coalition for Excellence (ACE)** has a plan – we need your help in getting the opportunity to initiate actions that will move Alsip forward.