



## New economic development commission named

*Aim is to maximize opportunities, think "outside the box"*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 18, 2013**

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ELMWOOD PARK – The Village Board has approved Village President Angelo "Skip" Saviano's appointees to a new Economic Development Commission. The five member committee was sworn in by Saviano at Monday's board meeting.

"I'm excited about this commission," Saviano said. "This panel will be aggressive in attracting and keeping business here in the Village. We already have a number of great projects underway."

The new commission will be chaired by Philip Marcantelli. Other members include Bina Conte, former Village Board member Al Fang, Jr., Peter Volpe and James Pape. Village Trustee Angelo Lollino will serve as board liaison. All of the members have extensive business experience and strong ties to the village.

Under an ordinance approved by the Village Board, the Economic Development commission will work independently from the Plan and Zoning Commission, but with similar objectives. Saviano said the change in structure will allow for a more focused approach to economic development.

"They'll hit the ground running," Saviano said. "My hope is that they'll maximize opportunities, think outside the box and bring new ideas to the table. Among the many benefits, economic development will generate new tax revenue for the Village, which translates to less cost to residents for services and programs."

In other action, Saviano announced that a second canvass of village properties will be conducted on June 21. Department heads, elected officials and staff members will fan out across the south side of the village, looking for homes or businesses with excessively high grass, weeds or debris. Property owners out of compliance with village code will be reminded and encouraged to properly maintain their property.

"The first canvass earlier this month found that overall, property owners keep their places neat and clean," Saviano said. "We want to make sure we do everything we can to keep our village clean, safe and beautiful."