

Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.

In 2005 citizens elected Leon Rockingham, Jr. Mayor of the City of North Chicago. Leon Rockingham is a lifelong resident of North Chicago, Illinois. He is married to Yvonne Rockingham and graduated from North Chicago Community High School and attended Ohio University. Leon has two daughters, Tameka (Sean) Wilson and Lea (Lamar) Huley. He is a loving and proud grandpa of 5; two granddaughters, Brianna and Terryn and three grandsons, David, Cameron and Lamar, Jr.

Leon is a faithful member of the Mount Sinai Institutional Baptist Church of North Chicago where he serves on the Ushers' Ministry.

Leon Rockingham is a retired Systems Technician from AT&T with tenure of 31 years.

He served as North Chicago's 4th Ward Alderman for 12 years, from 1989 until 2001.

He served as a Commissioner on the East Skokie Drainage District and was a member of the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County and is serving on the Lake County Storm Water Agency, where he returned in 2010 as a Board Member and continues to serve in this capacity to-date. Some of his accomplishments during this period include:

- Serving as Chairman of the 911 Board from its conception in 1991-2001
- Spearheading projects to address flooding along Jackson Street and added retention ponds throughout the city
- Obtaining 12 million dollars for the renovation of the North Chicago Water Plant in 1989 positioning North Chicago's water plant as a revenue source beyond North Chicago's borders
- Leading the annexation of property into North Chicago, along Waukegan Road for housing complex development, which include; Deer Valley, The Hamptons, and Stradford Ct.
- Supporting the construction of Fire Station No. 2 west of Route 41
- Leading the contract negotiations with Abbott on their purchasing agreement regarding sales tax revenue
- Supporting the implementation of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District along Sheridan Rd.
- Instrumental in acquiring Federal, State and private grants to fund several other local projects

Accomplishments as Mayor of North Chicago

Since serving in this capacity, Mayor Rockingham, along with the support of the City Council, has managed numerous successful projects during his first 12 years in office. Some of these projects include:

- Acquiring funding and the installation of police surveillance cameras throughout the city to combat crime.
- Negotiating a rate reduction through ComEd / Utility Project (NIMEC) for North Chicago residents and small businesses.
- Working closely with Naval Station Great Lakes on several initiatives including the opening of access gates at Sheridan Road and Martin Luther King Drive to attract new businesses through improved traffic flow.
- Purchasing and the demolition of 40 acres of properties for future development, now known as Sheridan Crossing.

- Instrumental in obtaining fair assessment of property values for taxation purposes in the privatization of naval housing during negotiations with the U.S. Navy.
- Assisted the school board in acquiring \$1.6 million in annual funding from the Federal and State levels for North Chicago Unit School District 187.
- Acquired the 1st enterprise zone in the state of Illinois during the last 20 years, a cost effective strategy to attract new businesses to the North Chicago community.
- Arranged introduction of U-Verse (AT&T cable TV) into the community. The first community in the Midwest to offer such service.
- Negotiated annexing of 40 acres on RT 41 into North Chicago
- Acquired a \$10,000,000 grant for the reconstruction of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.
- Installed Red Light running cameras to promote safety within the city.
- Established the Clean Sweep Task Force to assure building and properties are up to code.
- Founder of the Annual Community Days for North Chicago Citizens, the only city wide event and collaboration amongst other city agencies, (Foss Park and School District 187).
- Initiated Citywide Pride Day each year to beautify the city.
- Demolished abandoned and blighted buildings throughout the city.
- Acquired many grants including a \$750,000 grant for a new ladder truck and a \$150,000 grant for defibrillators for our Fire Department.
- Brought new businesses into the community including Knauz North, North Chicago Community Bank, Advance Auto, Uline and others.
- Instrumental role in securing land and Federal Government approval for the National Museum of the American Sailor Great Lakes: an official Department of the Navy Museum under the Naval History and Heritage Command, the National Museum of the American Sailor's mission is to collect, preserve, and interpret the history of the United States Navy's Enlisted Sailor for the benefit of the US. Navy and the people of the United States.
- Supports, welcomes and contributes to both local and national organizations.

In addition to continuing to advance the prosperity of the City of North Chicago, Mayor Rockingham serves in many areas as community volunteer and strives to advance his leadership skills through ongoing training and education.

Mayor Rockingham remains visible in and out of Lake County, he currently sits on numerous boards in his on-going commitment to positively promote his hometown and improve the quality of life for its residents. Some of these boards included:

- Illinois Municipal League Second Vice President on the statewide organization's board of directors. He has served as a vice president and a member of the Executive Committee on the IML Board of Directors, first joining the board in 2008.
- Lake County Storm Water Management Board
- Community Action Partnership, Board of Directors
- Exchange Club of North Chicago, Co-Founder & Board of Directors

- CMAP – 1st Vice Chair, Council of Mayors Executive Committee, Alternate Rep. Transportation and MPO Policy Committee, & Member of the Unified Work Program (UWP) Committee - Participation in this organization enabled North Chicago to receive the grant funding which led to the reconstruction and improvement of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive.
- Boy Scouts of America Northeast Illinois Council, Executive Board. Mayor Rockingham has achieved the highest rank of Eagle Scout and serves as role model for local participants in this national organization
- Lake County Council of Mayors, Chair & Executive Committee - Provides input into the region's transportation policy decision, facilitates communication between local government and regional transportation agencies, establishes the priorities and to implement transportation projects, formalizing input from region municipalities and insures regional equity in planning and funding decisions.