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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**John Hessel, Kirkwood City Attorney, Postpones Retirement to Ensure Continuity**

**KIRKWOOD, MO (April 15, 2024)** — The City of Kirkwood announces that City Attorney John Hessel will postpone his retirement to guarantee a seamless transition within the City Attorney's office, following an unexpected change in succession plans. John Hessel has been preparing for and planning his retirement so that there would be a smooth transition of the City Attorney responsibilities to a fellow attorney at his firm, Lewis Rice. Hessel's planned successor has accepted an in-house legal position with a private company, prompting Hessel to extend his service until a new City Attorney is selected by the newly elected Mayor and City Council, a process expected to take several months.

The City of Kirkwood extends its gratitude to Mr. Hessel for his dedication and willingness to continue serving Kirkwood and its residents during this transitional period. Updates on the selection process for the new City Attorney will be shared as they become available.

For further information about the City's initiatives, please visit [www.kirkwoodmo.org](http://www.kirkwoodmo.org).

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