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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Two New Officers Sworn Into the Kankakee Police Department**

**Kankakee, IL** – Two new police officers have been sworn in the Kankakee Police Department, Jackie Mendez and Carlee Small.

Jackie is a Kankakee resident and graduated from Kankakee High School. She earned her Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice from Kankakee Community College and a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Western Illinois University. Her work experience includes being a substitute teacher for Kankakee School District 111 and a corrections officer for the Kankakee County Sheriff's office.

"I am excited to be given this opportunity to keep my community safe and with having a young daughter, my goal is for her to see that as well. I am thankful to our police department. I look forward to continue to build relationships here and I would hope that community members will also confide in me. I also want to thank my family for their support in believing in me and pushing me to accomplish my goal," said Officer Jackie Mendez.

Carlee is a Momence resident and graduated from Momence High School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice with a minor in sociology from Olivet Nazarene University. She also completed an internship with the Bradley Police Department. Before accepting the position, Carlee worked as a correctional treatment officer for the Illinois Department of Corrections in Joliet.

"This opportunity hits close to home because I have always wanted to become a police officer and I am grateful for the opportunity. I look forward to figuring out what my strengths and weaknesses are and to also interact with the community as well. I would like to thank my mom and my husband for supporting me in the career that I chose," said Officer Carlee Small.

“We believe both officers will be a great asset in our growing department. We are currently in the process of recruitment. If you are interested or know someone who would like to become an officer, we encourage you to apply,” said Chief Frank Kosman.

“I would like to congratulate both officers and welcome them to our police department. I believe women can be successful in any career they choose. I look forward to the contributions of these women as they work to build trust among residents, create partnerships throughout our community and gain skills that will assure their success,” said Mayor Wells-Armstrong.

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The City of Kankakee is dedicated to protecting, building and nurturing the community while enhancing lives. We are a historic, vibrant, and active riverfront community. We continue to transform into an extraordinary place to dream, grow, and thrive. Embracing our diversity, we strive to be progressive, inclusive, and innovative. For more information on the City of Kankakee, please visit the website at [www.citykankakee-il.gov](http://www.citykankakee-il.gov).