

# APRIL METRO LUNCHEON LIVING IN THE RED & YELLOW



Living in the red and yellow - City Manager Neukirch will present her personal experiences and work effort following the Highland Park shooting that took place on July 4, 2022, and how “living in the red and yellow” impacts her life today.

 **APRIL 12 | 11:30 am to 1:30 pm | NIU Naperville or via ZOOM**

Following the professional development program, City Manager Neukirch will present additional information about her personal experiences and work effort following the Highland Park shooting that took place on July 4, 2022. In her capacity as Incident Commander, she was responsible for oversight of the City’s emergency response operations and resiliency efforts, working alongside senior staff members and coordinating with federal, state, county, local agencies and community partner organizations. She was also a participant in the parade along with her son and nephew and three minutes outside of the hot zone when the shooting took place. She will share the balance that was necessary to care for her family, City employees, the public and herself the days and weeks after the emergency incident, and how “living in the red and yellow” impacts her life today.

Ghida Neukirch is a municipal leader with 30 years of experience in local government management. She is the first female City Manager for the City of Highland Park, IL. As a first-generation proud American, having moved to the United States from Beirut, Lebanon in 1976, she is dedicated to promoting inclusivity and fairness for all.

As City Manager for the City of Highland Park, IL, a progressive community located on the shore of Lake Michigan with more than 30,000 residents, Neukirch directs the operations for the City. She is responsible for the management of a \$113 MM budget and 270 employees. Neukirch has balanced 10 consecutive budgets and has ensured that the City maintains a Aaa bond rating, the highest bond rating available and a testament to sound financial planning and management. In addition, she oversaw the reconstruction of the City’s \$35 MM water plant, and negotiated and coordinated the consolidation of fire and emergency medical services between the City of Highland Park and Highwood.

Neukirch serves on a broad range of professional, civic, and philanthropic boards and committees. She is a Board Member of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board, Board Member and Past-President of the Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood, and a founder and Executive Board Member of Community the Anti-Drug (CTAD). Neukirch is also the Co-Founder of the Highland Park Career Exploration Program (HPCE). She is a Credentialed Manager by the International City/County Management Association and is a Past President of the Illinois City/County Management Association.

In 2012, Neukirch began her employment with the City of Highland Park as the Deputy City Manager and was promoted to City Manager in 2014. Her prior professional work includes management positions at four other municipalities in the State of Illinois. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Industrial Psychology from DePaul University and a Masters of Public Administration with an emphasis in Urban Management from Northern Illinois University. She and her husband Scot Neukirch, have two children, Jaclyn & Zachary.

*addresses ICMA practice areas: 5-personal resiliency and development, 13-human resource management and workforce engagement*

***intended audience is local government managers/administrators and assistants***

Attend in-person at NIU Naperville or virtually through Zoom. **Zoom presentation begins at 12:30 PM.** Registration rate is the same for in-person and virtual attendance \$35. Register for Professional Development Event "Emergency Preparedness" as well for \$65. Student Rate \$20 or \$45 for both events. MIT's are free.

**Register at: [ILCMA.org/events/April12](https://www.ilcma.org/events/April12)**

