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Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award Presented to Peter D. Schepis

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Allegheny County Manager William D. McKain CPA announced today that the County has presented the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award to Mr. Peter D. Schepis, Special Deputy for Health & Human Services in the Department of Budget & Finance. This is the second Distinguished Service Award presented by the county since the program was re-instituted in early 2013.

“Pete is and always has been a consummate professional. He, like many employees of the county, does the job of two or more people, and does so cheerfully,” said Fitzgerald. “His expertise and knowledge has allowed the county to take full advantage of revenues and, he did so for those in our community who most need that support – residents served by Human Services and our Kanes. His selfless dedication and commitment to this county has made it a better place for all of our residents. We are grateful for his 25+ years of service.”

Mr. Schepis was jointly nominated by Dennis Biondo, Director of the Kane Regional Centers, and Marc Cherna, Director of the Department of Human Services. Calling his knowledge of grant regulations and protocols unmatched in Allegheny County, his nominators highlighted his dedication and willingness to go the extra mile, as well as his exemplary service: “Pete Schepis is not the type of person who comes to work expecting to do the same job day in, day out. He comes to work knowing that when a question, no matter how ‘far out’ comes his way, he’s going to go the extra mile to get the answer. Many times the questions are not necessarily easy, nor does the person asking always want just the answer; nonetheless, they look to Pete for his perspective and direction. His point of view is based on the 25 years of experience he’s had here in Allegheny County.”

“As Chair of Council’s Budget Committee, I have had the opportunity and pleasure to work with Pete Schepis any number of times when we consider amendments to the Grants and Special Accounts Budget,” said Council Member Finnerty. “I have always been impressed by his knowledge of the budget, his understanding of the complex reimbursement structures that apply to our departments, as well as his willingness to help and provide answers to those who need them. I am proud that he’s a resident of my district and honored to join the Executive in naming him the Lucchino Distinguished Service Award winner.”

Mr. Schepis started with Allegheny County in December of 1988 after a 17-year career in the Department of the Auditor General. In 1971, he earned his undergraduate degree in Psychology and, in 1974, earned a Master’s in Education along with a teaching certificate, from Duquesne University. He has worked with the staffs of multiple administrations, both in the home rule and three commissioner forms of government. His ability to provide support required by leadership to make informed decisions has also been recognized in the past. In February 1990, Mr. Schepis was one of 31 county employees selected to receive the Commissioners’ Award for Excellence in County Government.

Mr. Schepis was surprised at his workplace this afternoon where his co-workers were having a cake and

retirement celebration for him, in advance of his retirement this Friday. Mr. Schepis was honored by the County Executive, Council Member Mike Finnerty, the County Manager and other members of the administration who announced that he was the winner of the 2014 Lucchino Distinguished Service Award. He was presented with a joint County proclamation from the County Executive, Council Member Finnerty and the full County Council. Pete also received a complimentary golf pass for the 2015 season, a pewter plate depicting the Courthouse, and will receive a formal plaque with photograph from the presentation.

“It was my great privilege to work for Frank Lucchino and the re-instatement of this award, in his name, that recognizes our county’s employees means a great deal to me,” said McKain. “This award represents all that is positive about our County employees – someone who exceeds all expectations, goes the extra mile, approaches their job and related responsibilities with pleasure, makes a significant impact upon the county, and has always represented the county admirably. There is no one I can think of who exemplifies these characteristics more than Pete Schepis. I am honored to recognize him as the Lucchino Award Winner, and am proud to have worked alongside him.”

The Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award was re-instated in 2013 and is presented annually. Additionally, an Exemplary Employee Award was created by the County Manager which is presented four times a year in recognition of exceptional achievements by a county employee or employee group. Written or online nominations may be submitted by anyone:
<http://www.alleghenycounty.us/manager/award.aspx>.

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