



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

ALWAYS INSPIRING

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2017

**Contact:** Amie M. Downs  
412-350-3711 (office)  
412-327-3700 (cell)  
[amie.downs@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:amie.downs@alleghenycounty.us)

## Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award Presented to Clarence Hopson

**PITTSBURGH** – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and County Manager William D. McKain CPA announced today that the county has presented the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award to Mr. Clarence Hopson, Deputy Director of the Allegheny County Parks Department. This is the fourth Distinguished Service Award presented by the county since the program was re-instituted in early 2013.

“Most people don’t realize how what the county does impacts them. Each day they likely drive on a county road, cross one of our bridges, ride the public transportation system, or receive services from one of our departments. It is our employees that make that happen,” said Fitzgerald. “Clarence is one of those people who has dedicated his life to public service and spends every moment thinking about how we can make our parks system better. It is a privilege to honor him today.”

Deputy Director Hopson was nominated by Andrew Baechle, Director of the Parks Department, citing his dedicated service to the county for the past 36 years, 23 of which has been in the Parks Department. Citing his knowledge, leadership and pride in the county parks system, Director Baechle wrote the following in the nomination: “The pride Clarence takes in the Allegheny County Parks is second to none. Clarence frequently visits the facilities or attends events on the weekends or evenings without reason, just to see how things are going. Clarence is truly excited to watch the department grow and develop the way it has over the last several years.”

“I have known Clarence for over 15 years,” said Council Member DeWitt Walton, who is Deputy Director Hopson’s representative on Council. “In all of my interactions with him, he has shown intelligence, commitment, character and determination. Clarence’s career with the county is an example of what hard work can achieve.”

Deputy Director Hopson began his career with Allegheny County in 1980 as a field monitor, and then a counselor with the division of Federal Programs. In 1984, he joined the Employee Relations Department as a job analyst and then Manager of Training. He joined the Parks Department in 1993 and was promoted several times within the department, moving from Recreation Program Coordinator, Recreation Superintendent and Assistant Operations Manager, before being named Deputy Director in 2000. A graduate of Schenley High School and St. Francis College of Loretto, with degrees in elementary education and history, Clarence lives in Pittsburgh’s Hill District with his family.

“As a CPA, looking at balance sheets is an everyday occurrence. One of our greatest assets, however, is not usually reflected there – our employees,” said McKain. “Judge Lucchino dedicated his life to public service and worked diligently to improve this county for our residents. Clarence does the same for the Parks Department and it is very fitting that he is being honored today as the 2016 Lucchino Distinguished Service Award winner.”

Deputy Director Hopson was surprised at the Courthouse this afternoon where he thought he was attending a press conference announcing recently completed parks projects. He was honored by the County Executive, Council Member DeWitt Walton, County Manager McKain and other members of the administration and Parks Department who announced that he was the winner of the 2016 Lucchino Distinguished Service Award. Following remarks, Clarence was presented with a joint county

proclamation from the County Executive, Council Member Walton and County Council. He also received a glass paperweight depicting the Allegheny County Courthouse and will be presented with a formal plaque with photograph from the presentation.

“The knowledge that Clarence has gained during his time here and with other county entities makes him an invaluable member of the team,” said Baechle. “Clarence’s easy-going personality has helped him form relationships here that greatly help our department get things done in the most efficient ways possible. That same attitude and personality have helped lead the parks through transitions, and have also made numerous small improvements possible without much fanfare that have resulted in significant savings for the system.”

The Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to an employee or employee group who has exceeded all expectations, made a significant impact upon the county, and has represented the county admirably in his or her actions. The award is intended to recognize and reward exemplary performance by county employees as demonstrated through exceptional efficiency and productivity, customer service, or innovation and creativity. The award was named in honor of The Honorable Frank J. Lucchino who has had a long and distinguished career serving the citizens of Allegheny County. For 20 years, he was the county’s elected Controller (1980-2000) before being elected to the Court of Common Pleas, serving 2000-2016, before retiring earlier this year as a Senior Judge on the Court.

# # #

**Office of County Executive Rich Fitzgerald**

101 County Courthouse | 436 Grant Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-350-6500 | Fax: 412-350-6512

[www.alleghenycounty.us](http://www.alleghenycounty.us)

---

**Follow us:** [allegheny alerts](#) | [facebook](#) | [google+](#) | [instagram](#) | [linkedin](#) | [pinterest](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#)