



Dennis Biondo Named 2022 Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Awardee

PITTSBURGH – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and County Manager/Chief of Staff Jennifer M. Liptak today announced that the county has presented the 2022 Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award to Mr. Dennis Biondo, Esq., Director of the Kane Community Living Centers. This is the tenth Distinguished Service Award presented by the county since the program was re-instituted in 2013.

“Dennis has been a part of county government for nearly 45 years, and has been a dedicated, trusted and reliable part of our team. While he has served as the Kane Community Living Centers Director for nearly the last 20 years, he’s remained an integral part of the Law Department as well,” said Fitzgerald. “In baseball, we’d call Dennis our utility player because he is used in so many different ways and is an extremely valuable asset with rare skills. He does so with great aplomb and success, and leads in his quiet and unassuming way, setting an example for so many other employees in this county. We are fortunate to have him as a county employee, and he is wholly deserving of this award.”

Dennis Biondo has worked for the county since October 1977 when he joined the staff in the Law Department as a newly admitted member of the Pennsylvania Bar. Originally tasked with mental health commitments and juvenile court, Biondo eventually moved to handle jail issues and was the lead assistant solicitor for the extensive jail litigation that ultimately led to the commissioners’ decision to build a new jail facility. In 1986, he was assigned to the then-Kane Regional Centers. The rest, as they say, is history as Biondo was named Director in 2004, a position he still holds today at the Kane Community Living Centers. In addition to being a licensed attorney, Biondo is also a licensed Nursing Home Administrator.

Biondo’s colleagues commend him for his effective and efficient services to the county. He is a stand-up person that works behind the scenes, but whose contributions are mighty. Even with all of his work at the Kanes, Biondo has always been an integral part of the county Law Department too. His work was a key component of the merger between the county and the City of Pittsburgh’s 9-1-1 system and included the passage of ordinances to implement the fees to support the system. He has continued to provide his expertise and leadership in the drafting of various contracts, does human resources work on an ongoing basis, and has played an active role in the negotiation of county collective bargaining agreements with our labor partners.

“Dennis is an extraordinary person. His dedication, diligence, endurance, kindness, integrity, intelligence and selflessness all epitomize what anyone would ask for in a public servant,” said Liptak. “When help is needed, Dennis is always willing to answer the call, but what sets him apart from others is his constant willingness to offer help without being asked. I am proud to honor him with this recognition and admire his long-standing dedication to all those who call Allegheny County home.”

In just the last decade, Biondo has shifted the focus of the Kanes to supporting residents to age in place. This has included the creation of independent living apartments, transitional care units that allow residents opportunities to rehabilitate and return to their homes, and the opening of memory care and specialty care units at the four facilities. Under his leadership, the Kanes have received numerous awards, continuously receive 4- and 5-star ratings by the Centers for Medicare and CMS and have been named among Newsweek’s top nursing homes in Pennsylvania. He and his team have launched

telemedicine pilots, have participated in programs that reduce readmissions and prevent infection, adapted computerized therapy technology, and found additional ways to use technology to engage the families of residents in their care. The Kane Community Living Center staff have also been supported by the launch of continued education programs, specialized training, and the creation of free CNA training and a career ladder program.

Biondo was surprised this afternoon at the Courthouse following a group photo of the county's directors and deputy directors. After the photo was taken, County Executive Fitzgerald announced the award along with County Manager/Chief of Staff Jennifer Liptak and Senior Deputy County Manager Steve Pilarski. Also in attendance were his wife, Cathey, and three of his four children, Dennis Jr., Danielle and Philip. His daughter, Natalie, lives in Arkansas and was unable to make the trip in. Following remarks, Biondo was presented with a county proclamation, a glass paperweight depicting the County Courthouse, and will also receive a formal plaque designating him as the 2022 awardee which includes a photograph from the presentation.

Previous winners have included:

2013	Dr. Robert Levine Medical Examiner's Office
2014	Peter D. Schepis Budget & Finance Department
2015	Robert J. Lentz Controller's Office
2016	Clarence Hopson Parks Department
2017	Randolph (Randy) W. Brockington Human Services Department
2018	James P. Reardon Facilities Management Department
2019	Joseph Gavlik Computer Services Division
2020	All County Employees
2021	Ed McGregor Medical Examiner

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 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 in 2000. He retired in 2016 as a Senior Judge on the Court.

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