

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, in February 2023, the County Manager's Office re-instituted the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award and created the Exemplary Employee Award to recognize exceptional achievements by a county employee or employee group; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager selected Amie J. Downs, Esq., as the recipient of the 2023 Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award; Amie first began working for the county in 2002 when she became Council's Legislative Services Director – a position she held for more than three years; she then served as Chief of Staff to State Senator Wayne Fontana for nearly seven years before returning to work for the county in 2012 as its Communications Director; and

WHEREAS, prior to working for the county, Amie earned a bachelor's degree from Carlow University and a juris doctorate from Duquesne University; she is a Carlow trustee, and in 2016, was named as a Carlow Laureate, the university's most prestigious honor; in addition to her work with Carlow, Amie has served on the Allegheny County Parks Foundation Marketing Committee, Allegheny League of Municipalities Board, Democratic Committee of Dormont, Dormont Library Board, Friends of the Dormont Library Board, Pittsburgh Film Office Board, Pittsburgh Musical Theater Board, and the Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta Board; and

WHEREAS, as the county's Communications Director, Amie develops or coordinates all communications for county departments under the Executive Branch and assists her colleagues on county authorities and boards; that includes media inquiries, press releases, public statements, social media posts, website editing, talking points, public events, publications, constituent responses, and general messaging; and

WHEREAS, a short list of Amie’s job responsibilities does not adequately illustrate the full scope of her immense workload and all that she has accomplished during her illustrious career in public service; she is on-call at all hours of the day and has essentially not taken a full day off over the past 12 years; she is at the County Executive’s side at the majority of the events he attends and has chronicled his three terms in office every step of the way; and

WHEREAS, Amie has led vital emergency response efforts for derailments, fires, and severe weather, and she partnered with other agencies in responding to the tragic Tree of Life shooting in 2018; she has led communications for more than two dozen elections; she also helped create and launch the Live Well Allegheny campaign, worked to develop an online expungement tool, and partnered with other agencies on communications for the region’s Amazon HQ2 bid, the Global Clean Energy Action Forum, Census 2020, and countless other initiatives; and

WHEREAS, all those Amie works with marvel at her multitasking skills, tenaciousness, attention to detail, and just how much she cares for her colleagues and this region; whether it’s her undying love of the Pittsburgh Pirates and musicals at the Benedum Center, the many ways she volunteers her time to better our communities in her “spare” time, or her fierce advocacy for women’s equality and empowerment, Amie embodies the best of what it means to be a citizen of this county.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim December 19, 2023 as “Amie M. Downs Day” in Allegheny County and congratulate her on receiving the 2023 Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award. I thank Amie for her years of public service, especially her passion, dedication, and commitment to providing vital information to the public that informed their decisions and impacted their lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 19th day of December, 2023.


RICH FITZGERALD