



# NEWS

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## **Montgomery County Courts Appoint Ken Lawrence To Montgomery County Board of Commissioners**

**Norristown, PA (January 23, 2017)** – The Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas today unanimously chose Ken Lawrence, Jr. of Plymouth Meeting to fill the vacancy on the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners created when former Commissioner Josh Shapiro resigned to serve as Pennsylvania Attorney General. Lawrence, the first African-American Commissioner in Montgomery County’s history, will finish Shapiro’s term and serve on the Board through 2019. Lawrence is scheduled to be sworn-in on Wednesday afternoon.

“Ken has deep ties and a long history of service to the Montgomery County community. I am certain his unique blend of public and private sector experience, his collaborative approach to problem solving, and his personal commitment to the highest ethical standards will make him an outstanding governing partner with Commissioner Gale and myself,” said Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair of the Montgomery County Commissioners.

A resident of Montgomery County for nearly 35 years, Lawrence brings a diverse set of skills and experience to the Board. Currently, Lawrence serves as Temple University’s Vice President for Alumni Relations. In this role, he is responsible for overseeing the activities of the Office of Alumni Relations and the Temple University Alumni Association. He was the first Vice President appointed to this position in Temple history. Previously, he served as Senior Vice President for Government, Community, and Public Affairs at Temple where he oversaw the offices of Government Relations and Community Relations directing all of Temple’s outreach and advocacy activities at the state, local, and federal levels of government and community engagement.

No stranger to the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, Lawrence was unanimously appointed by the Commissioners in 2011 to serve as a county representative to the board of the

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) and was unanimously reappointed in 2016. Previously, he was appointed by the Commissioners to the board of the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau and served two terms from 2006-2013. In 2012, Lawrence was a member of the Shapiro-Richards transition team serving on the Transportation and Infrastructure sub-committee.

Prior to joining Temple, Lawrence built his own successful public affairs firm in Montgomery County – Public Affairs Strategies – where he represented corporate and non-profit clients. Lawrence also previously worked at Merck & Company, Inc. handling public relations, product support, community relations, corporate contributions, crisis communications, issues management, government relations, and media relations, and at the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce as a Public Policy Representative performing policy development and analysis, grassroots outreach, and lobbying on regional business issues.

Lawrence currently serves on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Independence Region, James A. Finnegan Foundation, and the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation. He previously served on the marketing committee for the Montgomery County Industrial Development Corporation.

Lawrence's prior board service includes the Avenue of the Arts, Inc., Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montgomery County, Committee of Seventy, Easter Seals of Southeastern PA, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, North Penn Chamber of Commerce, and the North Penn Valley Boys and Girls Club. Lawrence has been a volunteer youth sports coach for several years in the Plymouth JR ABA and the Colonial Soccer League.

Mr. Lawrence has been the recipient of several major awards including the 2016 Philadelphia Tribune: Most Influential African Americans, the 2005 Philadelphia Business Journal: 40 Under Forty Award, and the 1999 Big Brother of the Year (North Central Philadelphia).

Lawrence began his college career attending Montgomery County Community College and is a graduate of Temple University from the College of Liberal Arts with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and the University of Pennsylvania from the Fels Center of Government with a Master's degree of Public Administration. Mr. Lawrence lives with his wife and two sons in Plymouth Meeting.

The official swearing-in ceremony will take place at 3:00pm on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Courtroom A.