



FEBRUARY 2022

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

The City of Canton Monthly Employee Newsletter

Happy Valentine's Day!



GREETINGS, CANTON CITY EMPLOYEES

No matter what storm we get, or what Punxsutawney Phil predicts, days are nonetheless becoming longer, brighter and warmer heading into February!

This month, become acquainted with two men striving to create additional brightness within Canton: new Civil Service Commissioner Edmond Mack and the Pro Football Hall of Fame's new Centennial Plaza Operations Manager, Pat Wyatt. However new to their positions, both Edmond and Pat are established Cantonians and accomplished professionals.

With Commissioner Mack's goal-oriented ambition focused on City government development and Pat's attention towards fostering growth within the local scene, Canton can look forward to great changes for 2022!

Miranda Knight
Newsletter Editor

FEBRUARY FEATURES:

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:
MEET COMMISSIONER MACK**

**CENTENNIAL OPERATIONS:
MEET PAT WYATT**

**FROM HR:
HEART HEALTH TIPS**

**CCPH:
CANNED FOOD MONTH**

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION: MEET NEW COMMISSIONER EDMOND J. MACK

Become acquainted with the City's newest Civil Service Commissioner, and former Councilman, attorney Edmond Mack! Edmond joins the Commission titled as Member, serving alongside Chairperson Albert "Chip" Conde and Vice Chairperson Ralph Lee.



Edmond Mack may be a familiar face: He has formerly served the City in multiple capacities as Councilman (2012 - 2018), member of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (2016 - 2020) and Director of ArtsinStark (2018 - 2020.) Edmond is an attorney and partner of Plakas Mannos, and a recipient of numerous national, state and local awards in recognition of his diligence in litigation defense and prosecution. In addition to his new post as Civil Service Commissioner, he currently serves as Director of the Downtown Canton Land Bank (DCLB Corporation), a Trustee of Stark County District Library and as a member of the NAACP Canton branch. Edmond graduated from Kent State University cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy and history prior to receiving his law degree in 2007 from the University of Akron School of Law cum laude.

When asked about his interest in becoming appointed Commissioner, Edmond cites his enthusiasm for community investment, as well as an intriguing piece of Canton history: the work - and 1926 assassination - of *Canton Daily News* editor, Don Mellett. Mellett was instrumental in exposing organized crime and police corruption during the 1920s through the use of the *Canton Daily News*, and became rapidly successful in swaying public political opinion within only 19 months as editor. Between 1925 - 1926, Mellett uncovered substantial subversion within the Police Department, Board of Education and board of non-profit Aultman Hospital. Mellett's death led Mayor S.M. Swarts to suspend corrupt Police Chief S.A. Lengel a second time - the first being spurred by Mellett's investigative work (below.) It was eventually discovered that Lengel was responsible for orchestrating the assassination of Mellett, although the Civil Service Commission attempted to conceal the truth.

This story serves a purpose in understanding the importance of the Civil Service Commission within the framework of the City: It is the mayor's responsibility to appoint the three commissioners, who are in turn responsible for overseeing departments such as Police, Canton City School District and Public Health. Edmond's eagerness to serve the Commission with integrity is heavily influenced by this bit of sordid local history, as it underscores the importance of transparency and highlights how easily small government may be manipulated, and how manipulation may be concealed, at various levels. He is honored by Mayor Bernabei's faith in his abilities and dedication to Canton, and plans to support department heads through fair, responsive treatment.

When he is not working at Plakas Mannos or in one of his appointed community positions, Edmond relaxes by spending time with his three daughters, Isabella (10), Evelyn (3) and Eleanor (7 months.) Together, they enjoy playing soccer in Centennial Plaza and stopping by Jerzee's for hotdogs. He is also an advocate for exploring Canton's downtown dining scene, and recommends Bender's prime rib and margaritas. Edmond is eager to re-join the City as Civil Service Commissioner, and his goal-driven personality is sure to have great impact on Canton employees and residents alike. ■

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION STRUCTURE AND DUTIES

The purpose of the Civil Service Commission is to prescribe, amend and enforce rules for the classification of positions that fall under civil service to the City, Canton City School District (CCSD) and Canton City Public Health (CCPH.) The three members and one secretary are appointed by the mayor, and no more than two commissioners may belong to the same political party. The positions are uncompensated and terms last 6 years. See page 4 for additional news from our Civil Service Department.
<https://ijhf.org/donald-r-mellett>



Although Mellett's investigative work led to the initial suspension of Police Chief Lengel, the corrupt Civil Service Commission reinstated him in April of 1926.

Editor Mellett penned the above article prior to his assassination, which occurred only months later in July. Lengel was eventually found guilty of ordering Mellett's death and was sentenced to life in prison.